Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-050
Friday
13 March 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-050

CONTENTS

13 March 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Kravchuk Suspends Removal of Nuclear Weapons *[TASS]* 1
Plans Elimination Facility *[Moscow TV]* 1
Kozyrev, Baker Comment During News Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 1
More on Conference *[IZVESTIYA 13 Mar]* 2
Armenian Official Comments on Rutskoy Statement *[Russian TV]* 2
Physicist Examines Reasons for Brain Drain *[Moscow TV]* 3
Meeting on Ratifying Arms Treaties 'Successful' *[TASS]* 4
Uranium Smugglers Caught in Germany 'Amateurs' *[IZVESTIYA 11 Mar]* 4
Russia on PRC Joining Nonproliferation Treaty *[TASS]* 5
Nuclear Waste Dump Planned Near Barents Sea *[Moscow TV]* 5
Locals Object to Possible Nuclear Waste Burial *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 10 Mar]* 5
Institute Pioneers Nuclear Monitoring Equipment *[Russian TV]* 6

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Lalumiere Remarks at News Briefing Criticized *[IZVESTIYA 26 Feb]* 7
Troops Leaving Germany Face Housing Problems *[TASS]* 7

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Commonwealth

Council of Heads of CIS Governments Meet 8
Session Opens in Moscow *[TASS]* 8
Meeting Endorses Agenda *[TASS]* 8
Agenda Outlined *[IZVESTIYA 13 Mar]* 8
'Fundamental Disagreement' Likely *[TASS]* 9
Delegation Representatives Cited *[INTERFAX]* 9
Further on Fokin Comments *[Russian TV]* 10
Further on Upcoming USSR Deputies' Congress 10
Dangers Seen in Timing of Congress *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 Mar]* 10
Newspapers Carry Debate *[TASS]* 12
Former Secretary Ligachev To Attend *[POSTFACTUM]* 12

Military

Further Reportage on Release of Hostages 13
Hostages Arrive; Stolyarov Cited *[TASS]* 13
Hostages Comment *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Mar]* 13
Rutskoy Renews Call for Withdrawal *[Russian TV]* 14
Official Doubts Armenian Account *[TASS]* 14
Further on Armed Forces' Council Meeting 14
Officers Urge Single Foundation *[TASS]* 14
900 Generals To Be Laid Off *[INTERFAX]* 15
Council Chairman Interviewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 12 Mar]* 15
14th Army's Future in Dnestr Determined *[Moscow Radio]* 15
180 CIS Servicemen Remain in Nagorno-Karabakh *[POSTFACTUM]* 16
Armed Forces Leadership Remains Unchanged *[POSTFACTUM]* 16

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Mar 16

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Kozyrev Discusses Ties With Romania's Nastase *[INTERFAX]* 18
Interest in Developing Ties With Iraq Noted *[TASS]* 18
Gamsakhurdia, Supporters Meet in Groznyy *[INTERFAX]* 18

UK's Hogg Arrives in Moscow 9 Mar *[INTERFAX]* 18
Meets With Official *[TASS]* 19
Nechayev Holds Rome Talks on Italian Credits *[TASS]* 19
Battalion To Arrive in Yugoslavia Early Apr *[INTERFAX]* 19
Broadcasting Company Created With U.S. *[TASS]* 20
Energy Agreement Signed With Germany *[TASS]* 20
Group To Develop Trade With CIS Formed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Mar]* 20
Institute Prepares Report on Foreign Policy *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 Mar]* 20
Biologists From Novosibirsk Working Abroad *[TASS]* 22
St. Petersburg Bank Conference Slated 8-11 Apr *[Radio Rossii]* 23

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Not To Attend Public Forces Conference *[INTERFAX]* 23
Yeltsin Decrees Minimum Consumer Budget *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 7 Mar]* 23
State Insurance Inspectorate Chief Named *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 11 Mar]* 24
Gaydar on Need to Avoid Credit 'Rogues' *[Radio Rossii]* 24
Shakray on 'Unconstitutional' Tatar Decision *[INTERFAX]* 24
Collegium Discusses Agenda in Closed Session *[INTERFAX]* 24
Tripartite Commission on Labor Relations Meets *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Burbulis, Shokhin Attend *[Moscow TV]* 25
Intelligentisa Support Enlisted *[TASS]* 26
Military Adviser Urges Rapid Creation of Army *[INTERFAX]* 26
Officers' Union Chairman on 'Nonsense' of CIS *[Moscow TV]* 26
Writer's Union Venue for Congress Organizers *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 Mar]* 26
Congress Could 'Destabilize' Country *[INTERFAX]* 27
More on Communist Support of Congress Plans *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 12 Mar]* 27
Union Official Rejects Congress of Deputies *[TASS]* 28
'Provocative' Character of Congress Previewed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 12 Mar]* 28
Party Questions Government's Credibility *[INTERFAX]* 28
News Agency President Remarks on Reforms *[Tokyo KYODO 11 Mar]* 29
New Price Rises To Effect Family Budgets *[IZVESTIYA 11 Mar]* 30
Group To Help Stabilize Nagorno-Karabakh Formed *[INTERFAX]* 30

Supreme Soviet

Khazbulatov Supports Government Reorganization *[INTERFAX]* 31
On Misperceptions of Democracy *[IZVESTIYA 13 Mar]* 31
On Adoption of Constitution *[TASS]* 31
On Georgia, Shevardnadze's New Post *[TASS]* 31
Condemnation Issued on Attacks on Servicemen *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 13 Mar]* 32
Escalation of Actions Viewed *[TASS]* 32
Resolution Passed on Pace of Agrarian Reform *[TASS]* 32
Roundup of 11 Mar Supreme Soviet Session *[Russian TV]* 33
Observer Views Parliamentary 'Polemics' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 Mar]* 33

Regional Affairs

Mayor Popov Responds To Calls For Dismissal *[INTERFAX]* 34
Internal Affairs Asked To Prevent Congress *[KURANTY 13 Mar]* 34
Autonomous Regions Will Sign Federation Treaty *[TASS]* 34
St. Petersburg Seeks Arms Export Approval *[Radio Rossii]* 34
Chechen Parliament Declares Independent State *[TASS]* 34
Kabardino-Balkar Republic Established *[TASS]* 35
Kuban Chief Interviewed on Yeltsin Visit *[PRAVDA 12 Mar]* 35
'Unconstructive' Kuzbass Strikes Lack Support *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 12 Mar]* 35
Preparations for Siberian Congress Outlined *[POSTFACTUM]* 36
Siberian, Far East Town Association Meets *[Moscow Radio]* 36

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Government Agrees to Joint Debt Responsibility *[INTERFAX]* 37
Sets Conditions for Signing *[INTERFAX]* 37
Chairman Proposes Debt Service Alternative *[NARODNA HAZETA Feb]* 37
Foreign Minister Favors European Integration *[INTERFAX]* 38

European Council Delegation Ends Visit *[TASS]* 38
Diplomatic Relations Established with Slovenia *[Kiev Radio]* 38
Taiwan To Provide Medical Assistance *[Radio Rossii]* 38
Australian Ambassador Presents Credentials *[Kiev Radio]* 39

National Affairs

Supreme Soviet Discusses, Adopts Draft Laws *[Kiev Radio]* 39
Parliament Approves Foreign Investment Law *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Trans-Carpathia Adopts Law on Self-Government *[Kiev Radio]* 39
Rukh Cautions Against Self-Government *[HALYCHYNA 22 Feb]* 39
Supreme Soviet Designates Ukraine's Independence Day *[HALYCHYNA 22 Feb]* 39
Bill on President's Representatives Adopted *[HALYCHYNA 22 Feb]* 39
President Appoints Ministers, Other Officials *[URYADOVYY KURYER Feb]* 40
State Duma Created by Presidential Decree *[URYADOVYY KURYER Feb]* 40
Rukh Comments on Republican Party Statement *[Kiev Radio]* 41
Market Traders Shun Coupons in Some Cities *[IZVESTIYA 10 Mar]* 41

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Country's Servicemen Recalled From Transcaucasus *[TASS]* 42
Finnish Foreign Minister Continues Negotiations *[Minsk Radio]* 42
Procurator's Office Drops Coup Investigation *[INTERFAX]* 42
Shushkevich Criticizes Idea of Referendum *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Mar]* 42
Signature Collection Continues *[INTERFAX]* 43
Export Restrictions Lifted To Restore Ties *[TASS]* 43

Moldova

Defector Warns Dnestr of Attack on Dubossary *[INTERFAX]* 43
Dnestr Guardsmen Attack Police; One Killed *[TASS]* 44
Dnestr Officials Stripped of Deputies' Powers *[TASS]* 44
Romanian Politicians Ask for Troops to Moldova *[TASS]* 44
Protocol on Diplomatic Ties Signed With France *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 45

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Holds Talks With Moscow Delegation *[Moscow TV]* 46
Socialist International Official Meets President *[TASS]* 46
Discusses Possible Membership *[TASS]* 46
Independence for Coal Mines Called 'Pipe Dream' *[Moscow TV]* 46

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Soldiers Vow To Execute 'Hired Killers' *[IZVESTIYA 13 Mar]* 48
Nagorno-Karabakh Discussed With UK Minister *[TASS]* 48
Failed Arms Deal Said Cause of Hostage Taking *[TASS]* 48
Immigration Not Choice of Yerevan Residents *[INTERFAX]* 49
Parliament Decides To Retain Army Property *[ARMENPRES]* 49
Foreign Minister Visits Mideast Countries 49
Comments on Syria *[TASS]* 49
Ties Established With Egypt *[TASS]* 50
Trip Reviewed *[Moscow Radio]* 50
Federation Offers Support to Ter-Petrosyan *[ARMENPRES]* 50
Order Allows Foreign Construction Capital *[INTERFAX]* 50

Azerbaijan

Mamedov, Ter-Petrosyan Agree to Cease-Fire *[Baku Radio]* 51
Armenia Accused of Violation *[INTERFAX]* 51
Reportage on Major Armenian Offensive in Agdam 51
Rocket Attack Launched *[Baku Radio]* 51
Women, Children, Elderly Evacuated *[Baku Radio]* 51
Stepanakert Denies Attack *[INTERFAX]* 51
Fighting Detailed *[Radio Rossii]* 52

Gasanov Contacts Iran, Turkey, Kazakhstan *[Baku Radio]* 52
Lebanese 'Mercenaries' Sent to Nagorno-Karabakh *[POSTFACTUM]* 53
International Observers in Nagorno-Karabakh *[TASS]* 53
Democratic Party Leader on Nagorno-Karabakh *[TASS]* 53
Military Buildup Against Lachinskiy Rayon *[Baku Radio]* 53
Popular Front Head on 'Civilized Divorce' From CIS *[TASS]* 54
Party Calls for Parliamentary Elections *[Baku Radio]* 54

Georgia

Parliament Session Called 'Propagandistic Show' *[INTERFAX]* 54
Instability 'Being Inspired' by Gamsakhurdia *[Moscow TV]* 54
Gamsakhurdia Backers Agree To Release Hostages *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Civilian Helicopter Shot Down Near Zugdidi *[INTERFAX]* 55
Situation in South Ossetia Said Stabilizing *[TASS]* 55
Sigua Signs Communications Accord With Iran *[Radio Rossii]* 55

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Government Decisions on Appointments, Defense *[Tallinn Radio]* 56
Functions of Border Troops Reviewed, Discussed *[Moscow TV]* 56
Most Humanitarian Aid Reportedly 'Useless' *[Tallinn TV]* 56

Latvia

Withdrawal of Russian Troops To Begin 19 Mar *[BALTFAX]* 56
Foreign Sub Crew Training at Bolderaja Viewed *[Riga Radio]* 57
Deputy Foreign Minister on Use of Foreign Aid *[Riga International]* 57
Further on Aid *[Riga International]* 57

Lithuania

Landsbergis on 6-Day Unofficial Visit to Tokyo *[IZVESTIYA 10 Mar]* 57
Parliamentary Official Denies Coup Prediciton *[Vilnius International]* 58
Report of 'No Confidence' Statement Denied *[Vilnius Radio]* 58
Ambassador to U.S. Presents Credentials To Bush *[BALTFAX]* 59
Premier Wants To Stabilize Ties With Russia *[BALTFAX]* 59
Prospects for Relations Assessed *[Vilnius Radio]* 59
Delegation Holds Negotiations With Kaliningrad *[Vilnius Radio]* 60
Problem With Textbooks Published Abroad Aired *[Vilnius Radio]* 60
State Budget for 1992 Finally Approved *[PRAVDA 10 Mar]* 60
Citizens, Emigrees Want Law Explained *[Vilnius International]* 60

Kravchuk Suspends Removal of Nuclear Weapons

LD1203182992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1808 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 12 Mar (TASS)—While not changing the overall policy that Ukraine is seeking to become a nuclear-free, nonaligned power, we are making alterations to its implementation. A decision has been made to suspend the removal of tactical nuclear weapons. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk made this statement at a news conference in Kiev today. Explaining this stance, he commented: There are powerful nuclear forces on the territory of the republic, and Ukraine bears an extremely high responsibility for their fate. Because of the political instability and confusion that have developed, Kravchuk noted, we cannot be certain that the missiles being sent away by us are being destroyed and not falling into unfriendly hands. We are in favor of the process of removal and destruction of nuclear weapons being placed under international control, the president stressed.

Leonid Kravchuk stated that Ukraine considers the capacity of the nuclear arsenal destruction works located in Russia inadequate. Therefore, in the president's opinion, Ukraine has the right to have an equivalent enterprise on its own territory. It will most probably be located in the Chernobyl zone. This enterprise could also undertake the processing of waste from Ukraine's nuclear power stations, since Russia is now refusing to make its territory available for these purposes, he said. Ukraine has requested a number of countries to assist in setting up an international nuclear center on its territory.

Leonid Kravchuk said the following to a question about his view of the initiative to hold a so-called congress of USSR people's deputies: Since the Union as such does not exist, any attempt to revive the structures of the Union is illegal.

Speaking about the problem of the Crimea, the president commented that the Crimea is a part of Ukraine, and the issue of its future cannot be tackled without taking account of that. At the same time, Leonid Kravchuk spoke in favor of extending the rights of that autonomous republic. All problems arising in the region should be dealt with by the Supreme Soviet and people of the Crimea themselves, and those forces that are trying to stir things up in the Crimea are hostile to the people, the president commented.

Plans Elimination Facility

LD1203214192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Next week may become very important for the future of the CIS. The next meeting of the heads of the republics will take place on 20 March. But now, many of them already are indicating what their position will be. Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president, replied to journalists' questions in Kiev today.

[Correspondent V. Lyaskalo] The latest news conference by Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk was essentially a news conference to take stock. After all, he has been a president for 100 days now. What are the main tasks facing the president of Ukraine today? This was the first question. The tasks are as before, life itself has set them, Leonid Kravchuk noted: building an independent, democratic law-governed state; strengthening its economic base; ensuring the observance of all human rights in Ukraine.

Replying to a question about the progress of nuclear disarmament, President Kravchuk came out with this piece of news: In order to speed up this process, Ukraine has decided to build a works for the destruction of nuclear weapons on its own territory. In the future the problem of processing waste materials from nuclear power stations will have to be resolved. There are also plans to set up an international nuclear center in which it would be possible to use the intellectual scientific potential that is now working for the military-industrial complex.

Kozyrev, Baker Comment During News Conference

LD1203174592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpts] As we have already reported, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a news conference after their five-hour meeting in Brussels. Our special correspondent Viktor Levin, who accompanied the minister, has prepared an account of the news conference, which I invite you to listen to.

[Levin] The news conference was opened by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

[Kozyrev] "We covered the whole agenda of our bilateral relations. We made a first attempt to reach the level of disarmament initiatives set forth by our presidents. In essence, this involves specific fulfillment of the Camp David declaration. We worked in the spirit of this declaration, with us standing as friends and allies on the one hand, and complex problems on the other. I personally feel great satisfaction and optimism in the fact that we will be able to prepare an intensive and unusual—in terms of its productivity—summit meeting between our presidents in Washington in June." [passage omitted]

[Levin] The question was raised at the news conference of the proposals of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to eliminate all multiple independently targeted reentry vehicles, both land and sea-based. Secretary of State James Baker said that the basic differences between our positions are to be found first, in the deadlines for these

reductions, and second, in how fast we will move toward more sweeping reductions in strategic nuclear weapons. Regarding this, James Baker pointed out, no agreement has yet been reached. Andrey Kozyrev said that President Yeltsin did make such a proposal, but President Bush for his part proposed the elimination of all land-based multiple independently targeted reentry vehicles and a partial reduction of submarines with multiple warheads. He also emphasized that the difference lies in the deadlines for the reductions, and now efforts are being made to bring these approaches closer together.

Asked whether the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed and if so, in what context, the Russian minister said:

[Kozyrev] "We exchanged views yesterday on this matter and Mr. secretary general [as heard] yesterday expressed himself on this matter very strongly and, I think, very positively—at least that is my belief—at the North Atlantic Cooperation Council session. And what was particularly pleasant for me was that yesterday he directly mentioned the importance of Russia's mission as mediator. So I think we have complete clarity and coincidence of standpoints here."

[Levin] Having given his answer, Kozyrev corrected himself. He meant the secretary of state, not secretary general. The journalists also raised the question of what steps will be taken to force Iraq to comply with the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Andrey Kozyrev voiced his view on this problem:

[Kozyrev] "We believe that the Security Council should convince itself that Iraq is complying with all the demands set forth in the Security Council resolutions and if it is not convinced—and we hope that Iraq will show a responsible approach to this matter and that the minister will manage to explain all these aspects—then of course, the Security Council should push for the full and clear implementation of its previous decisions, as it has done in other similar cases. We are completely against the proliferation, the exacerbation of the arms race in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region, and believe that the United Nations—and in particular the Security Council—are the mechanisms which should react rapidly and effectively to such matters. The build-up of arms, especially destabilizing types of arms, must not be allowed to continue in this region which is already oversaturated with weapons."

More on Conference

PM1203202092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Maksim Yusin report: "Kozyrev and Baker Did Not Agree on Everything in Brussels"]

[Text] Brussels and Moscow—"We worked as allies and friends on the same side of the barricades; on the other side were the problems we have to tackle. I am satisfied with the results of the conversation and I hope that the forthcoming meeting between our presidents in Washington in June will be full and fruitful." That was Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's assessment of the results of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Russian ambassador's residence in Brussels 11 March.

The secretary of state was more restrained: "We were not able to achieve a final accord, but we were able to discuss calmly and productively many important aspects."

Instead of the planned two hours, the conversation lasted nearly five. "We ran through the entire agenda of bilateral relations," Kozyrev said at the concluding news conference. "Half the time, if not more," was devoted to disarmament issues, according to Russian diplomats who took part in the talks. And that is no accident.

Presidents Bush and Yeltsin, when they adopted the Camp David declaration, presented the heads of their diplomatic departments with a very complex task. A new strategic arms reduction treaty is supposed to be ready in time for the Washington summit meeting (16-17 June). In the old days this used to take years. Now the ministers and experts have only a few months at their disposal.

Neither Kozyrev nor Baker would enter into technical details or specify what stage the discussion has reached. Baker confined himself to a brief remark: "We were unable to reach agreement on the time scale for missile reductions and certain technical parameters."

There is nothing so terrible about that in the opinion of Russian experts. Nobody was expecting all the differences of opinion to be eliminated at only the second meeting between the ministers since Camp David (the first took place in Moscow three weeks ago). "A normal process of coordinating positions is under way. The subject is too complex. Instant results were never on the cards. In order to prepare the treaty by June, several more meetings will have to be held between the ministers. It will be a busy spring in this respect," said one member of the Russian delegation at the talks.

Armenian Official Comments on Rutskoy Statement

LD1203214892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A representative of the armed forces today rejected a statement made by Rutskoy concerning the availability of nuclear weapons in the Transcaucasus.

And here is a reaction in Yerevan to the vice president's interview given to "Vesti" yesterday.

[Begin recording of A. Manucharyan, adviser to the Armenian president] I regard the interview given by the Russian vice president yesterday as inadmissible. It completely ignored the situation in our republic. I think here, most likely, the situation in Russia itself played a

role. The complexity of this situation conditioned such an interview. [end recording]

Physicist Examines Reasons for Brain Drain

OW1303015492 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Interview with Vitaliy Ivanovich Ginsberg, academician and physicist, by Mikhail Solntsev in Moscow; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Solntsev] Recently there have been many press reports saying that a brain drain is about to occur, especially in sensitive fields like nuclear physics or nuclear weapons production. We would like to discuss this subject with our guest, well-known physicist and academician Vitaliy Ginsberg.

What is your opinion on brain drain from the former Soviet Union?

[Ginsberg] I am happy to say a thing or two on the subject, since foreign correspondents have interviewed me three or four times recently, and what came out of it was complete drivel. In this sense television is much better; what one says is what everyone hears.

Anyhow, this is a very topical problem, but it consists of several parts. First, what draws most attention is the danger of specialists in the fields of both nuclear and conventional weaponry being lured away by Libya or some other country, thus creating the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation. However, I must say right away that I am in no way directly associated with this and know only a little bit about it. It is just that one of these interviews was done jointly with the representative of Arzamas-16 [Russian secret nuclear complex], so I know a thing or two. It is an important problem, but, as you know, Yeltsin visited Arzamas-16 recently, and a decision to create a center—partially financed from abroad, by the United States of America, apparently—was made. This will create pay raises and create conditions so that people will not leave. Since in one of those interviews it was stated that I knew of a case when certain people have already left, I would like to use this opportunity to say that I know of no such cases. I think that even if it has happened, it is on the whole very unlikely. The same goes for deserters.

But this is only one side of it. The side that I am more familiar with, and which seems to be more important to me, is simply the brain drain of scientific workers who do not work in the defense sector. This is especially noticeable in mathematics and theoretical physics.

There are two reasons for this. First, we have many good people in these fields. Second, it is easier for these people to adapt abroad, since they need no special facilities—all they need is a pen and some paper. In these fields, the drain is major. I know of an institute, which I would rather not name, where about 50 percent of the people are absent. True, they come and go but about half of the personnel is abroad. I think that this is totally inappropriate.

I have heard the opinion that the drain is a good thing, since otherwise these people will be wasted, and when we have paradise on earth here once again they would be able to come back. In the meantime, so this line of thinking goes, they will be able to return on visits and bring all kinds of information. I totally disagree with this view.

Of course, if the choice is leaving the institute and working in a stall or going abroad, then of course going abroad is preferable. The scientist has the chance to maintain his aptitude and to bring some knowledge with him. But it would be best not to stay abroad for too long. I endorse going abroad—to a conference, say, or maybe even for an exchange of experience—for a month or so. This is a very good thing. But as for staying abroad for long periods—well, it is good for the one who goes since the pay there is much better. Sometimes it is also good for those paying the salaries. But I do not see any gain for our own scientific institutions from such prolonged trips.

Now, I would like to comment on the most important issue, that is, why so many of our qualified people go abroad. There are two reasons for this. First, there are many good and decent people abroad who invite and support our scientists as a kind of humanitarian aid. They see that these people's lives are bad here, so they invite them, feed them, and give them opportunities, which our scientists are happy to accept. They even recruit them in some cases.

Secondly, we have good specialists, and there is often a deficit of such good specialists abroad. Let us not forget that our science used to be very prestigious, and people wanted scientific careers for material and other reasons. Abroad, however, science is not a very prestigious occupation. Over there, a doctor, a lawyer, and certainly a businessman would be much better off. Therefore, even a rich country like the United States of America, which has a lot of universities, has a need for qualified people. Therefore, recruiting highly qualified people and supporting them is far from humanitarian aid, since they are not so easy to get.

From our country's point of view—it is not very clear which country this is, so let us suppose it is Russia, although I think that the same applies to all countries in the former USSR—the best thing would not be trips abroad but joint projects financed and aided from abroad.

But, let no one assume that I object to anyone going abroad. For example, recently I have been principally engaged in studying superconductivity. I have a very good team. I earn the equivalent of 30 dollars a month, plus food and other things. The exchange rate is fluctuating, but this is about 3,000 or 4,000 rubles. In the United States of America I would be getting 8,000 dollars a month. Obviously, if the pay here had been 8,000 dollars, not just for me but for the whole group, it

would have been possible to raise their pay and support them with what it would take to pay me alone abroad. There is not enough money today, and people, especially junior staff, are hard put. They get 1,000 or less, almost below the minimum, and prices go up all the time. We could double their pay with such aid, and it is not just some sort of handout, since research results can be promptly dispatched abroad in the form of theses, suggestions, and so on, and they can gain something.

[Solntsev] All this is true, but as you know there are certain sensitive fields in science which are secret—all kinds of classified developments. If such developments are financed from abroad, will we not lose all our secrets? To create the center you mention, $100 million was allocated for the creation of the center you were talking about; this seems like a good thing. But it might be an attempt to take from us the few remaining secrets we still have.

[Ginsberg] This is a very specific angle of the whole affair. Almost everything used to be classified. There used to be a time when one could not find anything that was not. Fortunately, this is changing. The vast majority of developments are absolutely not secret. As for weapons—well, I do not know the details, but there is no reason to think that this center will deal with weapons. Certain buildings will simply be off limits, like in certain other places. It is all a question of rational management. There are a few real secrets, and the less real secrets one has, the more secret they become because when everything is secret, nothing is. We all know this idiotic system of ours. If the real secrets are defined, why should people dealing with them divulge them? On the contrary, what I am afraid of is that even absolutely unclassified things will be kept secret.

What is more, technology and physics develop very fast, and what used to be secret some time ago becomes obsolete. I can give you an example. I used to work for Arzamas-16, and although I was in (?Fyana) at the time, I was in contact with Sakharov and his group. I was completely finished with this work in 1955, but they continued classifying me as top secret until 1987. This is complete idiocy. They had no inkling as to what was going on there, but still I was defined as classified and could not go abroad. This was the practice in those days.

We should not be worrying about them getting their hands on some secrets. Rational people can take care of this. The Lebedev Institute of Physics, where I work, is, by and large, an entirely open place. What is there to hide? After all, since we are interested in foreign developments, why should they not be interested in ours? The science develops so fast that it makes no sense to steal, even if there are people like that around. We should not assume that people are dishonest. [passage omitted]

Meeting on Ratifying Arms Treaties 'Successful'

LD1203164692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1603 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, Russian first deputy foreign minister, described as "successful" the meeting which ended in the Russian Foreign Ministry here today. The meeting had continued the work on agreeing on the procedure for ratifying and implementing the signed, but as yet unratified, treaty with the United States on reducing and limiting strategic offensive weapons and the treaty on limiting armed forces in Europe. He noted that "a useful exchange of opinions took place" on the drafts of the corresponding agreements. These agreements will be presented for examination by the heads of state who will meet in Kiev on 20 March.

Taking part in the meeting were deputy foreign and defense ministers from the states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Georgia.

Uranium Smugglers Caught in Germany 'Amateurs'

PM1203163992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Yevgeniy Bovkun report: "Failed Uranium Deal in Bavaria"]

[Excerpts] Bonn—The speculators were caught red-handed, engaged in shady dealings, you might say. An investigation has started. So journalists have thus far been given only the most general information at the Bavarian Land's crime department.

There were two of them—Germans with a poor command of German, settlers from our homeland. They had already prepared the commodity: small pellets of enriched uranium 1 cm in diameter with a total weight of 1.2 kg. Housed in a metal vessel and screened by lead sheets, the uranium was in a sports bag stowed in a car trunk. [passage omitted]

Fortunately for the luckless dealers the percentage enrichment of their uranium proved low—2.8 percent—and the radioactivity was not a danger to health. Experts maintain that to produce an atom bomb, let us say, would require 100 kg of uranium with an enrichment level of over 20 percent.

It is to be supposed that those detained were amateurs. But this was the full extent of the funny side of the situation. The matter takes a serious turn because the police are sure that there are more experienced and dangerous persons behind "our" dealers. It cannot be ruled out that they were merely trying to "sound out" the possibilities of the German market.

Bavarian Interior Minister E. Stoiber believes that there will be no "nuclear mafia" in this federal land and that the police will not allow criminals to develop.

The Bavarian police had been tailing our two former compatriots. The first information that they intended to trade in uranium was received at the beginning of February. The Bavarian Interior Ministry hopes that the speculators will put the police on the trail of their accomplices. But there is still cause for alarm. [passage omitted]

Russia on PRC Joining Nonproliferation Treaty

LD1203182192 Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—"Russia has received the report about China officially joining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with profound satisfaction," according to a Russian Foreign Ministry's statement announced by Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information Department, at a briefing today.

"This foreign policy step of the Chinese leadership will undoubtedly contribute to the strengthening of international security and strategical stability, serve to make the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the international regime formed on its basis more universal", the document says. "The Russian side believes China's becoming a party to the treaty will create favourable conditions for the more close coordination of efforts by staunch bearers of ideas of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons," the Russian Foreign Ministry's statement stresses.

Nuclear Waste Dump Planned Near Barents Sea

PM1203132592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by L. Obukhova and Ye. Popolzin from the Kola Peninsula]

[Text] [Obukhova] While Murmansk people's deputies are trying to fight off plans to build a nuclear waste burial installation on Novaya Zemlya, the military-industrial complex is building a nuclear waste burial ground in Iokanga on the Barents Sea coast behind a veil of secrecy, taking advantage of the fact that the site is located in a closed military zone. Not even the indigenous inhabitants of the nearby Lovozerskiy Rayon have been notified. They have learned of the nuclear burial site construction only by hearsay, from relatives and friends who work at the military base in Iokanga.

[Unidentified woman] Iokanga is a last remaining outpost not touched by the progress of technology and civilization, so to speak. Now a nuclear waste burial ground is to be built there. Meanwhile everywhere else disarmament is in progress. This is the military's doing. Construction was begun and subsequently suspended... But ultimately, I am convinced, they will build it. And while military personnel are free to leave the North when they reach retirement age, the Saami, that is the indigenous population, have nowhere to go.

Locals Object to Possible Nuclear Waste Burial

PM1103131992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 92 p 2

[Captain Second Rank V. Gundarov report: "Radioactive 'Cart' Still There..."]

[Text] This is not the first year that the inhabitants of the northwest of Russia have been concerned about this question: Where will the new regional burial site for radioactive waste be constructed? The participants in a conference on this question, held in Murmansk Oblast Soviet Executive Committee, listened to two reports—by V. Perovskiy, chief specialist of the All-Union Planning and Design Scientific Research and Technological Association (the VNIIPIET [expansion unknown] All-Union Association) (St. Petersburg), and by A. Kazakov, scientific leader of the subject of underground burial of radioactive waste at the "Promtekhnologiya" VNIIPI [expansion unknown] (Moscow).

The opinion of Arghangelsk Oblast Soviet deputies is known: They are categorically opposed. The inhabitants of the Kola region will not agree to live next to a burial site, either.

However, the site has not yet been chosen. The Murmansk conference approved only a point about a competition to elaborate the concept and location of a burial site. Under the terms of the competition the planning documentation must be submitted before 1 June 1992.

Some people might breathe a sigh of relief: Even if they do start building, it will not be soon. But specialists are sounding the alarm.

The acute shortage of means of utilizing and processing radioactive waste is leading to a systematic accumulation of waste in places where ships and ship repairs are based. The technical bases for handling radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel are the worst bottleneck in the system of ensuring radiation safety and preventing environmental pollution. But the stock of reserve capacities is limited. These are the conclusions of a competent commission.

The northwest of Russia may be likened to a nuclear "furnace." According to the data of the higher schools at Svanvik (Norway) and Milmfelten [name as transliterated] (Sweden) and the Kola Regional Ecological Information Center "Ekonord" (Apatity), a nuclear "flame" is raging in almost 250 reactors on ships of the Northern

Fleet, in the icebreakers of the Murmansk Marine Shipping Company, and in the Kola Nuclear Electric Power Station. The radioactive waste formed as a result of their operation and the spent nuclear fuel need to be buried. But where? The question remains open. Once again it has not been possible to get the radioactive "cart" moving because of the lack of a clear-cut state program.

Institute Pioneers Nuclear Monitoring Equipment

PM1203112192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1420 GMT 7 Mar 92

[From the "M-Trust" program: Video report by A. Kondrashov and A. Svyagin, identified by caption, from Alma-Ata]

[Text] [Kondrashov] The [Alma-Ata] Nuclear Physics Institute is well known in Kazakh scientific circles. Kurchatov himself helped to establish it 35 years ago. The institute is now the biggest within the republic Academy of Sciences. It studies both purely nuclear problems such as nuclear materials technology and nuclear power engineering, as well as radiation monitoring and nuclear ecology including provision of services to affected areas, and other spheres of applied science.

[A.K. Zhetbayev, Nuclear Physics Institute director] Many very important radioactive preparations were not being produced in our country. Thallium-201, for example. We were the first to produce thallium in the Union.

[Kondrashov] Thallium 201 is an indispensable preparation used in the early diagnosis of heart disease. Requests for supplies have come from a number of polyclinics in Tomsk, Tyumen, Yekaterinburg, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. There is also interest abroad.

AIDS has made it necessary to perfect sterilization of medical materials and instruments. In the civilized world gamma-rays have long been used for sterilization purposes. In our country the Alma-Ata Nuclear Physics Institute was the first to finally master this method. It makes it possible to sterilize artificial heart valves, catheters, blood transfusion instruments—in short anything that cannot be subjected to high temperatures.

People here have also found another use for gamma rays. By irradiating seeds, agricultural crop resistance and yields have been increased by 20 percent, and germination periods are being regulated. Irradiating the crops themselves can extend their storage life.

However, owing to the post-Chernobyl antinuclear mood the public's attitude toward nuclear science is one of intolerance, despite the fact that its fruits are all around us. For example, we are all familiar with ceiling-mounted fire alarms. Yet these are alpha-ray sources in which radium and plutonium is used. Someone has worked out that if all the fire alarms in Moscow were put in a heap the radiation danger would equal that of a bomb. Individually, the indicators are merely useful. Thus our fears are sometimes misplaced. Should a need nonetheless arise to monitor background radiation, the institute has developed a unique type of personal radiation meter which makes it possible simultaneously to monitor beta and gamma radiation. As such it has no parallel.

Lalumiere Remarks at News Briefing Criticized

PM0603142592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 92 Morning Edition p3

[Open letter to Council of Europe Secretary General Catherine Lalumiere from S.A. Kovalev, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Human Rights Committee, and V.P. Lukin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, under the rubric "Letters to IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] Dear Madame Lalumiere,

On 22 February, IZVESTIYA reported your news conference, citing the Estonian News Agency. We would like to stress here and now that we do not know to what extent the agency's interpretation corresponds to what you actually said during the press conference. Consequently, we would be very grateful if you personally would shed some light on the matter.

The text published in IZVESTIYA is in such striking contrast to your good name as a champion of democracy and human rights that we are forced to urgently request an explanation of your stand on the matter.

It is well known that the Estonian Parliament is currently discussing a draft law on citizenship which blatantly and unambiguously divides the population of the sovereign Estonian state into two categories along ethnic lines. Incidentally, this kind of division is translated as "apartheid" in a whole series of European languages. If this form of state system is becoming quite intolerable in South Africa, it is incomprehensible how it can be justified in the system of European democracy.

The fact that this law is illegal and degrades human dignity is underlined by the exceptions contained in it. Allowances are made for persons who have rendered special services to Estonia. Does this not remind you, esteemed Madame Lalumiere, of the concessions offered to Jews who had especially distinguished themselves in the Third Reich? Or of the concessions for especially prominent representatives of the peoples driven from their land by Stalin?

Incidentally, the overwhelming majority of the Russian-speaking population is as much to blame for the fact that it lives in Estonia as any other ethnic minority which appeared there "later" than the indigenous population. Moreover, the postwar Estonian leadership urgently requested that these people be encouraged into the country to speed up Estonia's industrialization.

If, as reported in IZVESTIYA, you really believe that "giving the vote to all Russians could threaten the identification of Estonians," the same could be said—to an even greater extent—by white South Africans or Belgian Walloons, for example.

Do you not think that stating the issue in this way—apart from its obvious ethical unacceptability—can only lead to a drastic increase in political tension? After all, citizens in regions of Estonia where the Russian-speaking population is in the majority could take the same approach to "identification"—with the consequences we are now seeing in Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Yugoslavia.

Hoping that your views were inaccurately presented by the Estonian News Agency, we impatiently await your explanation.

Yours respectfully,
[Signed] S.A. Kovalev, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Human Rights Committee, and V.P. Lukin, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations

[IZVESTIYA editorial note] The editorial office confirms that the information published by IZVESTIYA corresponds exactly to what Madame Catherine Lalumiere said at a news conference in Tallinn 19 February 1992.

Troops Leaving Germany Face Housing Problems

LD1303025992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1720 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Savvin]

[Text] Berlin, 12 Mar (TASS)—The rate of withdrawal of CIS troops from Germany is exceeding the rate of housing construction in the CIS. Therefore, the future housing, primarily of officers and their families, in the homeland remains a great problem, as before. This was stated on 12 March by Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, after a meeting in Potsdam with Werner von Scheven, head of corps and territorial command of Bundeswehr East. The commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces told journalists that he hopes for further support from the German side. He stressed that the withdrawal of troops from the Federal Republic in the first two months of this year had proceeded successfully without obstacles. Colonel General M. Burlakov further noted that up to now assurances had been given that 9,000 housing units will be built for the military with German funds and approximately as many units will be erected by Russian enterprises. Then it will be possible to resolve the housing problem said the commander in chief. He reported that in the Western Group of Forces the servicemen will be retrained in civilian trades. In the near future such courses will begin in 25 garrisons of the Western Group of Forces.

Commonwealth

Council of Heads of CIS Governments Meet

Session Opens in Moscow

LD1303094192 Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 13 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—The Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States opened its meeting at Moscow's President Hotel on Friday [13 March].

The meeting is attended by heads of government of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, as well as plenipotentiary representatives of governments of Russia, Belarus, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. An Azerbaijani representative is not empowered to sign documents.

At the proposal of the Russian state secretary, First Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis, Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko was elected as chairman of the meeting.

Heads of Moldovan and Azerbaijani delegations made brief statements on the situations in their states.

Meeting Endorses Agenda

LD1303095192 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—The meeting of heads of government and plenipotentiary representatives of CIS member countries, which opened in Moscow early today, will focus on legal norms for the creation of a single economic space on the territory of eleven states of the former Soviet Union.

The official agenda, which has just been endorsed by the meeting, comprises 18 points and includes several important economic agreements.

The delegates to the meeting will discuss and, possibly, sign agreements on pension guarantees to citizens of the CIS countries, agree on policy in standardisation and certification, customs regulations and taxation.

The meeting is also expected to consider and sign agreements on the principles and mechanism for servicing the internal debt of the ex-USSR, economic links on the territory of CIS, direct scientific and technological ties in the framework of CIS, etc.

Along with the agreements, heads of government plan to consider protocols on foreign debt and assets of the former USSR, a coordinated policy in price-formation, the inter-bank alliance and settlements.

Agenda Outlined

PM1203183092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko article: "'Stillborn' CIS Label Could Prove Premature"]

[Excerpts] Moscow—Moscow's prestigious "Oktyabrskaya" Hotel, now called the "President Hotel," is once again preparing itself for a major event—a session of the Council of CIS Heads of Government. It will open 13 March at 1000. [passage omitted]

The draft agenda for the session contains over 15 questions. Here are some of them. An agreement on guarantees of pension provision rights of CIS member states' citizens. A sore subject, is it not? Many of the former Union's citizens have ended up without pensions or guarantees for them because of the division of property and finances. It was not clear who should calculate and pay their pensions. This particularly applies to military personnel. The document envisages the allocation of pensions according to place of permanent domicile and payment through the budget of the appropriate state which has signed the agreement. In the sphere of customs policy, the creation of a customs union is proposed, with a view to a common customs territory and unified tariffs, and to refrain from erecting customs barriers. The same approach can be perceived in the area of tax policy.

With the aim of stabilizing a single economic area, the coordinating organs will apparently be instructed to prepare a list of regulated prices, above all for the output of fuel and energy complexes and of monopoly enterprises. The creation of a nongovernmental price information agency and the idea of creating an Interbank Union, in the form of an association which national banks would join, is being revived. Such a financial union is needed to conduct a coordinated money and credit policy and to coordinate possible measures in the event that any states make a final decision to introduce national currencies. Under this agreement, participants in the Interbank Union must notify their partners of this in good time, so as not to cause them loss and to prevent unilateral actions in this painful question.

Another touchy problem about which disputes have been going on for a long time now is how to pay the former Union's debts and how to share out its assets. To this day nobody apart from Russia (and then only partially) is paying the debts to foreign creditors. One of the main reasons for this is that it is supposedly necessary, they say, to divide both assets (what people owe us) and property abroad. In this connection a discussion on an agreement on the principles and mechanism for servicing the debt and signing a protocol on assets is proposed.

If the document on the organization of economic ties on the territory of CIS member states is signed, there will at last be an instrument for resolving the numerous disputes and conflicts between individual producers and

republics if they fail to fulfill a contract or interpret it idiosyncratically. For these purposes a Commonwealth Economic Court with headquarters in Minsk should be formed (something like the International Court in The Hague).

The directive on an interstate coordinating committee for railroad transport envisages the creation of an administrative and legal base to support passenger and freight shipments, their transit passage to third countries, and the working out of a system of settlements for freight car idle time and freight loss. Although doubts about this still remain—should such a superstructure committee be created, when throughout the world the appropriate departments regulate mutual relations on a bilateral treaty basis?

There are a multitude of other questions on the draft agenda: joint scientific research and the utilization of unique scientific and technical facilities; the joint training of cadres; unified standards (State Standards); the formation of a committee for the affairs of internationalist servicemen under the Council of CIS Heads of Government (previously it existed under the USSR president). Nevertheless it cannot be ruled out that some of them will be postponed for further work, since major amendments, additions, and objections by individual independent states are appended to the package of prepared documents. But if it proves possible to agree on just half of the questions submitted to the session, it will be possible to talk of the establishment of practical cooperation between CIS partners. That means it will also be possible to declare premature the "stillborn" label that has been pinned onto the Commonwealth.

'Fundamental Disagreement' Likely

LD1203220392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1539 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS observer Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Government which opens on 13 March in Moscow will in all liklihood be dominated by the elaboration of legal norms for the establishment of a single economic space on the territory of the 11 states which belonged to the former USSR.

Agreements on tax policy, principles of customs policy, and the organization of economic ties on CIS territory, as well as a protocol on the coordination of policy on price setting, which the heads of governments are scheduled to sign, seem to be the most important in this respect. These documents are intended to facilitate the restoration of severed inter-Republican economic ties, the stabilization of a single economic space, and to create equal conditions for economic activity in all the countries of the CIS.

All the signs are that difficulties will arise at the final stage of discussion on a draft agreement on the principles and method of servicing the former USSR's internal debt. The agreement has been prepared by a working group. The debt already exceeds 1 trillion rubles.

Under the draft, the CIS states have to undertake to repay the USSR's state debt to the peoples of their states in sums corresponding to their proportional share of the debt outstanding on 1 January 1991, as reflected in balances held at branches of the USSR Savings Bank on the territory of each Commonwealth state. The remainder of the USSR internal debt will be distributed according to an integrated index, based on the respective share of each former Union Republic in terms of produced national income, size of population, and other general economic indices.

One point on the agenda on which there may well be fundamental disagreement among the prime ministers is the question of the former Union's external debt and foreign holdings. According to the draft protocol which has been prepared for signing, the 11 CIS member states and Georgia must confirm their commitment to the obligations stemming from the 4 December 1991 treaty on legal succession in respect of the USSR's external state debt and foreign holdings. They must also acknowledge that until now not one former republic (with the exception of Russia) has been making payments on the external debt.

A question which is very likely to crop up again is the removal of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity from Russia's jurisdiction. Instead, it should have the status of a specialized interstate bank which will have the task of servicing the former Union's external debt and administering its foreign holdings. This was the proposal worked out during the meeting on the USSR's debt obligations held on 25 February in Kiev, and attended by delegations from 14 former Union Republics, excluding Russia. At that time Petr Aven, the Russian Federation's minister for foreign economic relations, said that Russia had been forced to take responsibility for the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity because the activities of the Inter-State Council responsible for servicing the external debt "had been paralyzed". However, as he put it, Russia "continues to believe" that the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity operates under the control of the Inter-State Council and not the leadership of any one republic.

Delegation Representatives Cited

OW1303114492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The council of CIS heads of government opened its session in Moscow on Friday [13 March]. It is expected to discuss a package of 18 issues having to do primarily with economics.

In his exclusive interview for IF [INTERFAX] Moldovan Premier Valeriu Muravschi said that he hoped the present session would be more fruitful than the previous

one. He suggested paying special attention to unblocking and restoring economic ties among the republics. Regrettably, this view was not invariably shared by Moldova's partners, specifically Russia, Muravski complained.

The head of the Ukrainian delegation, Premier Vitold Fokin told IF that his recent talks with Russia's First Deputy Premier Gennadiy Burbulis had yielded agreement in principle on a number of issues related to the former Soviet Union's external debt. He confirmed that Ukraine had reconsidered its stand and was now in favor of collective responsibility for the ex-USSR's debts to other countries. Fokin said he would endorse the October 28 memorandum into which the CIS nations had written down this principle.

Tenghiz Sigua, head of the Georgian provisional government and member of the newly established State Council, who is attending the CIS premiers' conference as an observer, told IF that he would take an active part in the session and sign a number of documents.

Further on Fokin Comments

LD1303143792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] At 1000 today, a routine session of the Council of Heads of Government of CIS member states started. The preliminary agenda consisted of 16 points. Economic problems are the focal point of attention.

[Correspondent A. Shashkov] It is expected that the prime ministers' club will discuss approximately 20 questions, many of which already were discussed in Minsk, but to which no solution had been found. It is left now to the military experts and the heads of state to resolve the extremely complicated problems of the Army. The premiers intend to be engaged first and foremost on economic problems, which, incidentally, are no easier; to get economic contacts underway; and to agree on how to resolve the disputes that are still inevitable in this matter. It is pleasant to note that at least on one issue there was an accord even before the start of the session.

[Ukrainian Prime Minister V. Fokin] The day before yesterday, Mr. Burbulis and I signed a very important agreement in which we reached a consensus on the main issue, on the system of debt servicing, on the character and functions of the agencies, bank, or organs to service the debts. So, the intention is there. I believe that even today I shall put my signature to the memorandum of 27 October [as heard] on collective activity.

[Shashkov] As far as the more pleasant heritage of the union is concerned, the situation here has not changed.

[Fokin] We believe that the quota which is in effect regarding the totality of debts should be retained in allocating the assets of the Soviet Union and its property abroad.

[Shashkov] And, finally, about the most mundane thing. An agreement probably will be signed today according to which pensioners will receive their pension, irrespective or where they live and work. But we surmise while politicians decide. You will learn this evening whether expectations have been met.

Further on Upcoming USSR Deputies' Congress

Dangers Seen in Timing of Congress

MK1203114592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 2

[Article by Oleg Blokhin, former USSR people's deputy and cochairman of the People's Party of Russia, under the "Position" rubric: "Congress of Yesterday's Men or... the Men of Tomorrow? Both the Inexplicable and the Irreparable Have Occurred in Our History"]

[Text] The attempt to revive the Congress of USSR People's Deputies is not as stupid or inoffensive as it may seem at first glance. Behind the lightweight but vocal figures of the members of the organizing committee can clearly be seen yesterday's forces, which are striving to destabilize the situation in the country and summon from oblivion figures from the quite recent but not therefore any less sinister past. If you analyze statements by members of the organizing committee, you will clearly see that their aims and, more important, the methods and formulas they intend to use to revive the "great and mighty [Union]" correspond almost point for point with the methods and formulas of the unforgettable State Committee for the State of Emergency.

At a time when the former component states of the USSR have each found their own brand of freedom and are attempting, not without mistakes, and sometimes tragic mistakes, of course, to break away from the clutches of the economic and political crisis, when the parliaments and governments of these countries, expressing the will of their peoples, have stated that they will never revert to the former slave area called the "USSR," and when these states have become full members of the United Nations—at this very time members of the Congress organizing committee are appealing "To the Peoples of the USSR, People's Deputies at All Levels, Republic Leaders, Governments of All World States, and the United Nations" in the following terms: "...The Congress will be able to form a new Supreme Soviet and government of the country, accept M. Gorbachev's resignation, elect a new president, assess the legality of and ratify or repeal the most important state acts adopted after the Fifth Congress of USSR People's Deputies in September 1991, and introduce amendments to the USSR Constitution to take account of the new political realities and, first and foremost, of the changed role of federal and republic organs by stressing the rights and responsibility of the republic authorities in questions of the administration of their regions and the role of the federal government in coordinating the actions of the republics, ensuring the survival of the

people, and, in the longer term, carrying through reforms, preserving a unified army, and dealing with other issues which it may be deemed expedient to leave in the control of the federal government..."

The whole action program revolves around this address and looks well-intentioned—stabilize the situation, reestablish the former ties between republics, and give peace to the peoples. But using what methods and measures? The organizing committee members warn: "No treaties and agreements that our country and its constituent parts have made with foreign states have or will have any legitimate juridical force unless, in instances provided for by USSR laws and the USSR Constitution, they have passed through the procedure of ratification by the USSR Supreme Soviet. Neither the USSR nor any of its constituent parts or legal entities that fall within its jurisdiction under USSR laws and the USSR Constitution will be bound by such treaties or bear responsibility for complying with them or fulfilling them." Here already we have a direct appeal to ignore laws made by parliaments and decrees issued by presidents of CIS countries. And if, God forbid, some foreigner were to take it into his head to teach us what is what, the organizing committee members warn: "Whatever the development of events on USSR territory, attempts at armed interference in our internal affairs by foreign states (including interference under the guise of UN forces) will encounter the most resolute resistance. Responsibility for the consequences of such interference, which could jeopardize the future of mankind as a whole, will in this case rest with those who initiated it." So this is what they have agreed! The initiators of the Congress are now putting the future of mankind as a whole in question. Some of them know only how to reach for the nuclear button. After all, there are plenty of military men among the organizing committee members.

All this would be laughable were it not so dangerous at this socially explosive time. The authors of these appeals, as we can see, back up the seriousness of their intentions with threats directed at one and all. And, when they talk about the need to reconcile peoples and governments, the organizing committee members link this with the rebirth of the USSR, along with, of course, the whole arsenal of repressive weapons characteristic of this structure—from the Communist Party to an Army which is prepared to crush the freedom of peoples with tanks at the bidding of a future president of a future USSR.

It is certainly no accident that the Congress organizers have chosen the capital of the Russian Federation as the place to hold it. But it is not nostalgia for the halls of the Kremlin that is drawing them to the ancient walls of the white stone city. Today this Federation is the nerve center of all the processes that are taking place in the former USSR. And it is precisely here that the depth of the projected reforms leaves no hope for the restoration of the communist regime or the return to power of yesterday's men. And if the Russian Government and the president are allowed to carry on working unhindered, they can consolidate themselves in earnest and for good.

The actions of national-patriotic forces, particularly those with separatist inclinations in the republics of the Russian Federation that are preparing to do battle with the new constitution, are also playing into the neocommunists' hands. After all, the new constitution could become the basis for building a new statehood for the Federation.

All this, taken together, is one of the reasons why the forces of reaction in the Russian Federation have been galvanized. And in order to interfere with the process of social stabilization, they are starting to pull out all the stops, ranging from frenzied and overt rally-cum-congress attacks to a covert nomenklatura coup.

But there is one other particular feature of the upcoming Congress of USSR People's Deputies. Preparations for the 29th CPSU Congress are taking place at the same time. And you may be sure that deputies from the "red hundred" who are participating in the work of the organizing committee of the deputies' Congress are also playing a prominent role in the preparations for the Communists' congress. Using this double pulling power, they will again attempt to haul the locomotive of communism onto the tracks. Utopia! No doubt about it! But it will cost our society dear (just as, incidentally, everything based on the communist idea is costly), because the bearers of this idea are, as always, people who think in terms of combat. Their behavior proves it. Whereas we deputies of a democratic persuasion have marched at the head of columns of demonstrators to restrain these columns from extremism and from clashes with OMON [special purpose militia detachment] forces, and during these rallies by many thousands of people against the communist regime not a single drop of blood was shed, it is an entirely different matter where the Communists are concerned. They deliberately incite people to clash with the authorities. And we know from the experience of 23 February what the upshot of this is.

Today, as we assess the disposition of forces in society, we should not overlook the return of the suddenly insightful M.S. Gorbachev, ex-president of the former USSR and erstwhile general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to our country's political arena via Germany (a familiar route?) [reference to Lenin's return to Russia in 1917]. Today Gorbachev is being forgiven for many things not just in the West but also in our own country, and people are surging forward to defend and justify him. There are many reasons for this, of course, but it may be that simple, everyday nostalgia for the "good old days" is also a major factor. But today M.S. Gorbachev should nevertheless define his stance in relation to the upcoming Congress of USSR People's Deputies in more clear-cut terms. The erstwhile president should assume some of the responsibility for the actions of people to whom he once gave extensive powers and whose role and influence in society he helped to increase.

The so-called Sixth Congress of USSR People's Deputies cannot make a single lawful decision, but it will enable those who are forever yesterday's men to become the focus of the population's attention once more, to show that they still exist. This is possibly the only thing they will achieve. But the hysterical tone of their statements that representatives of the aggressively obedient majority of political outlived their usefulness as soon as they became people's deputies. [sentence as published] At that time they refused to face up to today's realities and the course of the historical process, and they are refusing to do so now. Left on the sidelines of history, they are attempting as before to prevent the people from creating their own future in accordance with common sense and the objective laws of human existence.

Nevertheless, we should not underestimate their activities. After all, our history abounds in examples of occurrences that were seemingly inexplicable and irreparable.

Newspapers Carry Debate

LD1203200492 Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—The closer March 17, a date for which the convocation of the sixth congress of the USSR people's deputies has been scheduled, the keener the debates involving both deputies and various sections, groups and categories of citizens throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union.

The majority of today's newspapers touch upon the congress issue in this or that way evaluating it according to their political orientation. The former Communist press unambiguously supported the idea of holding the forum, where as a number of publications of liberal-democratic orientation accuse the initiators of the congress revival almost of "a new coup attempt".

Vadim Filimonov, member of the former USSR Committee for Constitutional Compliance and dr. of science (law) believes that "neither the procurator-general nor the Russian parliament have been vested with powers that would enable them to prevent the convocation of a congress of USSR people's deputies".

An attempt to qualify the actions of congress organisers under Article 64 of the Criminal Code is utterly illegitimate from legal point of view, Filimonov writes in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, because Article 64 "envisages penalty for actions directed against the USSR, not the Russian Federation".

Filimonov is of the opinion that, proceeding from the assumption that former deputies want to revive the USSR, and not any other Union state, their actions may not be regarded as directed against the USSR in any way.

"If a congress of USSR people's deputies is convened on March 17, it will be held without the former speakers," Ivan Laptev, one of the former leaders of the Soviet parliament, who is now the head of the IZVESTIYA publishing company, told ITAR-TASS. He believes that "the initiators of the convocation of the congress feel offended and are unable to put up with reality". If the organisers of the forum do have any prospect, it is aimed only at destabilising society, Laptev maintains.

Approximately the same estimate of the forthcoming event is being given by the leadership of the Democratic Party of Russia (DPR). In a DPR statement circulated on Thursday [12 March], the initiators of the convocation of a congress are accused of attempts "to restore the totalitarian regime".

The press reports a resolution adopted on Wednesday by the Presidium of the Russian parliament. The resolution qualifies the resumption of the activities of any bodies of power of the former USSR on the territory of Russia as an encroachment upon the state sovereignty of Russia".

The Presidium, IZVESTIYA reports, instructed the mayor of Moscow to prevent the holding of the congress in the city. For his part, Mayor Gavriil Popov issued an ordinance allowing the holding of a meeting on the Manezh Square on March 17. In this connection the Moscow Government, IZVESTIYA writes, decided not to bar deputies' access to the Kremlin where they "intended to hold a congress" but did not provide any room for them there.

"If they decide to gather, representatives of Moscow's law enforcement agencies are instructed to explain the city authorities' attitude to deputies and to persuade them into breaking up," IZVESTIYA notes.

Nothing is known so far about a venue for the congress. It has been only announced that registration of deputies will begin in Moskva Hotel in the morning on March 15.

The popular youth newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is convinced that the congress if convened will lack the necessary quorum because many deputies of the USSR do not express a wish to participate in it.

Former Secretary Ligachev To Attend

LD1203225292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1724 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—Yegor Ligachev will take part in the 6th Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR. On March 11, Yegor Ligachev, the former secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, told PF [POSTFACTUM]: I think that this is going to be rather a political than a legislative meeting. To my mind, therefore, the deputies should fulfil the demand of the people declared a year ago, i.e. to preserve the USSR. This is a holy duty, and this is why I am going to the congress.

Ligachev, who was present as a spectator at the press-conference of the members of the opposition movements' council, in a conversation with journalists promised to help in all possible ways to the activities of the united opposition. At the same time, he is not going to

enter the council. When speaking on his attitude to the Russian Government, Ligachev said: When I am asked about Yeltsin, I feel ill at ease. I have never answered these questions, as some people do, because I have always expressed comradeship and esteem, but now I would like to say: The people is getting poorer. [sentence as received]

Ligachev forecasts a considerable deterioration of the economic situation and the full breakdown of agriculture. "To be engaged in agricultural policy does not mean to sow and to plow. That means to understand and defend the peasants' interests for the sake of society. ...if this is understood by Rutskoy, I wish him a success", Ligachev stressed.

Military

Further Reportage on Release of Hostages

Hostages Arrive; Stolyarov Cited

LD1203164192 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—"We made no compromises and did not comply with any ultimatum-like demands in talks with representatives of the Armenian group that seized officers of the anti-aircraft missile brigade in Artik on March 8," Major General of the Air Force Nikolay Stolyarov, chairman of the Personnel Education Committee of the Joint Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, told ITAR-TASS today at the Chkalovskiy Military Airfield at the ramp of the plane which brought him from Yerevan together with two of ten officers released last night.

"People have been released and this is the most important thing. State and social agencies proved their ability to uphold the interests of our officers who were taken hostage," the general said.

He emphasised that the establishment of a legal mechanism that would serve as a safeguard against this kind of incidents in the future is "the most serious problem of all CIS countries which may not and must not have more important priorities than the safety of their citizens."

"When participating in the clean-up operations following the devastating earthquake in Armenia in 1988, I could not imagine that several years later I would be taken hostage by the fellow countrymen of those whom we rescued from under the rubble," Lieutenant Colonel Valeriy Reshetnikov, commander of the anti-aircraft missile brigade, told ITAR-TASS.

"I thing the only correct solution to the situation that has taken shape in Armenia now is to fully withdraw all troops that are under the central command. If the government of that state does not need us, our further stay there is senseless," Reshetnikov said.

The brigade commander and his deputy, Lieutenant-Colonel Valentin Kolbasyuk, who was also taken hostage, have no doubt that the attack of the military unit had been thoroughly pre-planned. Militants acted brazenly.

The role of the city authorities, including that of Sergey Babayan, chairman of the city council, remains unclear. It was precisely in Babayan's office that Reshetnikov was being persuaded on March 8 to hand weapons over to militants. After Reshetnikov firmly refused to do that, militants brought him to the unit's checkpoint to make soldiers let militants' large trucks into the garrison. Several servicemen were killed in an ensuing skirmish and there were casualties among attackers, too.

Officers related that some Armenian soldiers who served in the unit attacked their commanders and told militants about those of them who arrived at the unit in civilian clothes in response to an alarm signal.

"I left the brigade with a heavy heart. But I am grateful to all officers who acted firmly and courageously," Lieutenant-Colonel Reshetnikov said.

Hostages Comment

PM1303105792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Captain 2d Rank V. Urban, Major P. Karapetyan, and Major A. Stasovskiy: "In the End Any Excess Has To Be Stopped. Officer Hostages Released, But Only After Special Purpose Platoon Dispatched"]

[Excerpts] The 10 antiaircraft missile brigade officers held hostage by Armenian gunmen were freed at 0300 12 March. [passage omitted]

On the morning of 12 March an aircraft took off from Yerevan for Moscow carrying, in addition to Major General of Aviation N. Stolyarov, freed brigade commander Lieutenant Colonel B. Reshetnikov and his deputy for armaments Lt. Col. V. Kolbasyuk.

Our correspondent met with the officers immediately on their arrival at Chkalov airfield in Moscow.

"We have flown to Moscow primarily to tell the truth about our 'captivity' since there are a mass of rumors and half-truths circulating about it," Lt. Col. Valeriy Reshetnikov said. "We were captured with the aid of deception and force."

Reshetnikov also said that the gunmen did indeed demand a substantial ransom in the form of arms and ammunition for their release. In the brigade commander's words, after several attempts to break the officers using threats and blackmail, the bandits finally acknowledged that on 8 March they had indeed been the first to open fire and it had been soldiers who had died first.

Lt. Col. Reshetnikov repudiated a 12 March NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA allegation that on the eve of the

events "preliminary agreement had been reached with him that a certain quantity of weapons and ammunition would be handed over" to the Armenian side.

On the subject of his release Valeriy Reshetnikov expressed the view that the hostages were let go only because of the resolute actions of the Russian and military leaderships.

"Unfortunately soldiers of Armenian nationality were also involved in our capture," Lt. Col. Valentin Kolbasyuk added.

In a brief comment on the situation relating to the hostages' capture and release Maj. Gen. of Aviation Nikolay Stolyarov said that in such situations the only way is to respond to ultimatums with rigidity.

In the evening there was a news conference at which the officers described what happened in Artik in detail.

Rutskoy Renews Call for Withdrawal

LD1203185192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Today, two officers released by the Armenians arrived in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Taking part in their news conference, Rutskoy reported that during the period 1 January-11 March, 74 CIS soldiers have died and 238 have been injured in the area of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict. He stated that in the first place it is necessary to decide on what basis CIS forces are in the region.

[Begin Rutskoy recording] There is no legal basis of responsibility for the deaths of these people. For this reason I personally—my personal opinion—consider that it is necessary to withdraw the 7th and 4th Armies, to withdraw the families of servicemen, and create on a contract basis a contigent of servicemen—I stress on a contract, voluntary basis—which will act as the stabilizing factor in this region. [end recording]

Official Doubts Armenian Account

LD1203192192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1224 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Mar (TASS)—As already reported, talks were sucessfully completed last night between representatives of the grouping which a few days ago seized a group of Soviet Army officers as hostages in the Armenian town of Artik and Major General Stolyarov, assistant to the commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces (JAF) of the CIS. All 10 hostages were released alive and well.

According to information given to ITAR-TASS by telephone from Yerevan, in the apparatus of the chief adviser to the Armenian president on national security, the events that led to the seizure of the hostages unfurled in the following manner: Representatives of the Getashen Avengers Karabakh Self-Defense unit came to the military base in connection with an agreement they had reached with the military on the handing over of weapons necessary for self- defense following the departure of the 336th Motorized Rifle Regiment from Nagorno-Karabakh. According to this version, the military did not keep their promise. Shooting broke out between the sides and then the hostages were seized.

At the same time, Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Medvedev, chief of the press center of the CIS JAF, in a conversation with ITAR-TASS, expressed serious doubt about this version's accuracy. According to him, the command of the air defense missile brigade in Artik could not promise anything to the fighters since the unsanctioned transfer of weapons and military equipment was a military crime liable to severe punishment with a prison sentence of up to 15 years. At the same time, Medvedev admitted that cases were known in which servicemen sold weapons they had stolen for gain. However, according to him, the main source of the weapons coming into the Transcaucasus region was their forcible seizure as a result of brigand-like attacks on the CIS JAF.

According to press center data, from 1 January to 6 March there had been 70 attacks on CIS JAF servicemen; 95 percent of these took place in the Transcaucasus and North Caucasus Military Districts. As a result, 19 servicemen had been killed and 23 wounded; 2,000 weapons and 60 units of combat equipment had been stolen. [passage omitted]

Further on Armed Forces' Council Meeting

Officers Urge Single Foundation

LD1203230692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—"We believe that a single legal foundation should be established for reforming the armed forces and for the social protection of servicemen". An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by Captain 1st Rank Aleksandr Petrov, co-chairman of the Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies of the CIS United Armed Forces, during an interval between sessions of this collective body. It is intended to work out approaches common for the officers' corps toward the most important issues in the life of the Army and the fleet.

The Council has adopted an appeal to the heads of the CIS member-states. It says, in particular: "The elaborated structure of the CIS armed forces has not been supported by an appropriate legal basis. The situation is aggravated by persistent attempts by the leaderships of individual states to rapidly set up their own armed

forces. Ambiguous statements by individual political leaders from the independent states, with regard to when there are uncoordinated actions on a Commonwealth scale, lead to an uncivilized division of the Army and the fleet, and damage the common security and stability of relations within the Commonwealth."

The appeal contains a call for the meeting in Kiev on 20 March "to use all its political authority and influence with the aim of regulating armed conflicts by political means," and "to set up an international committee for military policy and reform in the CIS Armed Forces".

900 Generals To Be Laid Off

OW1203220292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 900 generals will be laid off from the CIS armed forces in 1992. The plan and time frame for the staff cuts has already been confirmed, the Deputy Director of Personnel of the CIS United Armed Forces Major General Aleksandr Voronin said at a meeting of the coordinating committee of the all-army officer's assembly in Moscow Thursday [12 March].

Voronin said that there are currently 9.5 thousand, or 20% of the officers serving in Ukraine have not sworn loyalty to the Republic. He also noted a significant number of personnel from the Caucasian military district [sentence as received].

Council Chairman Interviewed

PM1303131392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Lieutenant Colonel V. Zyubin report: "The Bulk of the Work Is Still Ahead"]

[Text] A regular session of the Joint CIS Armed Forces Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies was held in Moscow at the Frunze Central House of the Soviet Army 11 March. The agenda comprised: Results of the Minsk meeting of Commonwealth heads of state and the council's task in preparing its representatives for the next meeting in Kiev; the situation of servicemen and members of their families in the Transcaucasus, the Dnestr Region, and the Baltic countries; and the council's tasks in elaborating and implementing programs for the social protection of servicemen.

The session heard a report by Captain 1st Rank A. Mochaykin, chairman of the Coordinating Council. He analyzed the council's first steps and assessed the situation which has developed within the Army and around it.

Our correspondent asked Aleksandr Gennadyevich whether the Commonwealth heads of state heed the voice of the Officers' Assemblies and whether he was satisfied with the work of the Minsk meeting.

"I cannot say that I am totally satisfied. Not all the preparatory work which had been done among others by the Coordinating Council was included in the package of documents, and not all of them were signed by the presidents and heads of government," A. Mochaykin replied. "I asked on four occasions to be allowed to speak, but L. Kravchuk who chaired the meeting did not give me the opportunity. We had to make copies of our appeal and distribute them among the presidents. In my opinion, they have understood what we want. As you know, a number of documents were signed. Unfortunately, I am worried about the upcoming meeting in Kiev too. And here is why. It is planned to examine more than 20 questions there. Whatever we do, we will not be able to examine them in detail, there will be a rush which may affect the quality of work."

"What would you say was your minimum task at the upcoming meeting in Kiev?"

"It is necessary as a matter of urgency to elaborate and adopt a definition of servicemen's status. It is simply impossible to carry on without a document defining the rights and guarantees of servicemen and legally enforcing them."

The Coordinating Council session was attended by Moscow's Mayor G. Popov. In his speech he touched upon wide-ranging problems—questions pertaining to conversion, privatization, social security for servicemen, and the conflict situation which developed in Moscow 23 February. In the mayor's view, the mass media did not report this event and the causes which led up to it objectively enough.

Touching upon servicemen's social security, G. Popov noted that they are in a difficult situation. In Moscow alone 10,000 officers do not have housing. The mayor promised to resolve the officers' housing problem within two years.

The Coordinating Council is continuing its work. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA will brief readers on its proceedings and the adopted decisions.

14th Army's Future in Dnestr Determined

LD1203154792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] The future of the 14th Army, stationed on the left bank of the Dnestr, on the territory of the Dnestr-Moldavian Republic, has been determined. This was the outcome of a meeting between Colonel General Pyankov, deputy commander in chief of CIS troops, and the leadership of the Dnestr Republic. The long-term status of the troops on the territory of the Dnestr-Moldavian Republic has been defined: They will be CIS troops. All questions relating to financing and supply are to be decided by Russia.

The 14th Army units on the left bank of the Dnestr are to preserve their neutrality and will be protected from

inteference in intra-army life. All questions connected with withdrawal, transfer or relocation of the troops must necessarily be agreed with the leadership of the Dnestr Republic.

180 CIS Servicemen Remain in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1203230392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1724 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Military" section]

[Text] Nagorno-Karabakh [dateline as received]—According to some data, about 180 service men of the 366 Motor Infantry Regiment of the CIS United Armed Forces remained in Karabakh. According to a well-informed source in the headquarters of the Transcaucasian Military District, military service men of the 366th Motor Infantry Regiment of the CIS United Armed Forces which had been recently withdrawn from Stepanakert remained in Karabakh self-defense forces. According to the data from the same source, most remaining servicemen have already taken part in military actions in Karabakh on the Armenian side.

Armed Forces Leadership Remains Unchanged

LD1203131692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1504 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Military" section]

[Text] Moscow—Evidently, the commanders of the strategic and general-purpose forces and the chief of the General Staff of the Commonwealth joint armed forces will remain the same. A spokesman in the apparatus of the chief command of the Commonwealth joint armed forces told PF [POSTFACTUM] the Commonwealth's council of defence ministers, in the decision prepared for the summit in Kiev on March 20, recommended to the aforementioned top posts Colonel-General Viktor Samsonov, General Yuriy Maksimov and Colonel-General Vladimir Semenov respectively.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Mar

LD1303062392 Moscow TASS in English 0626 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS—The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the worsening armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, causing growing concern in the Commonwealth of Independent States and in many other countries, is among the central subjects, covered by newspapers today.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries a detailed report about the release late on March 12 of a group of officers of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, taken hostage by Armenian gunmen on March 8. The newspaper sharply denounced extremists' attempts to draw Army in the Armenian-Azeri conflict, and provocational methods and blackmail used for this purpose. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA welcomed the resolute stance taken by the Russian leadership and the command of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, which resulted in the release of 10 hostage-officers. The newspaper points out that in situations like this one "the only way is to respond to ultimatums with an uncompromising stand". The "hostages were released thanks to resolute actions by the Russian and the military leadership", the newspaper quoted one of the released officers as saying.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in connection with the incident raises the question about the safety of weapons and military hardware, belonging to the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, increasingly encroached upon by representatives of both sides. Reminding that the seizure of 10 officers resulted in a demand by extremists to provide "in exchange" large amounts of weapons and munitions, the newspaper cites the following statistics: from the beginning of this year the Army has lost more than 2,000 guns, some 60 units of military hardware, which appeared in the hands of gunmen from various armed units as a result of theft and attacks on garrisons.

Commenting on the release of hostages, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA singles out a statement at a press conference held on Thursday [12 March] in Moscow in connection with the incident by Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, in which he "accused President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia, saying that he was not managing the situation and should leave for rest, giving his position up to those who can do this".

Economic reforms, especially the progress of reforms in Russia, are widely commented in the press. The leadership of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia expresses its point of view about the actions of the Russian Government in RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA. Published are two statements, in which the Federation urges the government to amend several of its recent decisions and an appeal to urgently discuss economic interaction measures at a meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Kiev on March 20.

In the same newspaper Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev assesses the economic situation in the republic. He also expresses his viewpoint about the prospects for a single information space in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which he says is needed by all.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, commenting on the progress of economic reforms in Russia in an article "headlined Russia's Road to a Market: Victory or Defeat?", [quotation marks as received] gives a positive assessment of the work of the government of the largest republic in the Commonwealth of Independent States. According to the newspaper "the first phase of the government programme has ended without considerable losses".

Academician Georgiy Arbatov ponders on the pages of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA about the possibility of using world experience in implementing economic reforms in Russia and on which experience exactly should be used in conditions, Russia is currently in.

The same newspaper publishes the (abridged) text of a lecture "The Deadlocks of Totalitarian Socialism and Development Prospects" delivered by Mayor Gavriil Popov in International University in Moscow.

The press pays attention to events expected on March 17, when the initiative group of former USSR people's deputies plans to hold their congress. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out in this regard that the Russian Supreme Soviet characterized the attempt to hold such a congress as "infringement on Russia's state sovereignty". The newspaper also expresses apprehension that on March 17 events could spin out of control, aggravating the situation in Moscow.

Stressing that "the congress's organizers are prepared to pull out all stops" NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that opposition leaders have been granted permission by Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov to hold a rally in Manezh Square on March 17. Summing up the situation, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA concludes that "since February 23, the opposition has won the round in the political fighting".

International Affairs

Kozyrev Discusses Ties With Romania's Nastase

OW1303142392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 13 Mar 92

[From the 13 March "Diplomatic Panorama"—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev conferred with his Romanian counterpart Adrian Nastase who had come to Moscow for a one-day working visit.

After their meeting the two Foreign Ministers declined to give a news conference. According to DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama's"] correspondent, they discussed bilateral cooperation and developments in Dnestr Region.

The issues raised during the talks included the plight of Moldova's Russian-speaking population. This is confirmed by the fact that Sergey Kovalev, chairman of Russia's parliamentary committee on human rights, attended the meeting.

Interest in Developing Ties With Iraq Noted

LD1203163692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1541 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russia is interested in reestablishing and developing bilateral relations with Iraq on an equal and mutually advantageous basis. This was stated by Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, at a briefing today, in reply to a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He noted, however, that "we will strictly observe all our obligations to the international community and the requirements of the law and of morality."

Russia has been and is in favor of maintaining Iraq's independence and territorial integrity and of its future participation in structures of regional interaction on an equal basis. "Iraq must fulfill all the corresponding decisions of the UN Security Council in their entirety, and the sooner this is done, the sooner it will be able to return to normal relations with the international community, which are so vital to it," Vitaliy Churkin said.

At the same time, he stressed that Russia reacts with understanding to the difficult situation which the Iraqi people have found themselves in and welcomes all international efforts to render humanitarian assistance to the population of Iraq. "In this context, we share the principle of a gradual easing of the policy of sanctions but, of course, on the condition that Iraq conscientiously fulfills the UN Security Council's well-known resolutions," Vitaliy Churkin pointed out.

Regarding Iraq's internal affairs, he said the Iraqis are the only ones who have the right to decide the destiny of their own country and to determine the political, economic, and social parameters of their lives."

Gamsakhurdia, Supporters Meet in Groznyy

OW1203190992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 12, the Georgian parliament opened its session in Groznyy, the capital of the Chechen Republic. It is attended by the MPs supporting the deposed Georgian president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Merab Kiknadze, who was elected temporary chairman of the Georgian parliament (till the next session), said that 70 out of the 134 Georgian MPs had arrived in Groznyy and were therefore authorized to deal with any question.

According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, the agenda has 10 items. The deputies intend to adopt appeals to the people of Georgia, to the parliaments and governments of the CIS states, to the countries of the world, to the UN and the CSCE, and to the international organization for the defence of human rights. The main idea of the appeals is to draw support for the legitimate Georgian authority and to boycott the new leadership headed by Eduard Shevardnadze. A few days ago, Shevardnadze was elected Chairman of the Georgian State Council.

Also, there are plans to adopt a resolution on the illegitimacy of the laws and decrees, passed by the provisional government and the Georgian Military Council.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia told the session that the state council elected on March 10 was illegal and anti-constitutional. The fact that Eduard Shevardnadze asked Russia not to withdraw the CIS troops from Georgia, he said, suggests that without them the Moscow emissary will be inefficient. "We must help the West, blinded by Shevardnadze, to regain its vision," said Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev told the session that its work demonstrated that "Georgia was alive, while the deputies have lived up to the expectations of the people". The Georgian MPs observed the minute of silence for those who were killed during armed clashes in Tbilisi in December and January, and in the "subsequent shootings of peaceful demonstrations of the supporters of the legitimate authorities".

UK's Hogg Arrives in Moscow 9 Mar

OW0903201892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 9 Mar 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hogg has arrived in Moscow today (March 9) to take part in discussions with figures in the Russian Foreign Ministry and the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, and to meet the command of the Joint Armed Forces of the CIS. He will also visit Baku and Yerevan.

Our correspondent was told in the Russian Foreign Ministry that in the course of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Britain on January 30, 1992, an agreement had been reached on such discussions between the diplomatic services of the two countries. Hogg will apparently discuss with Russian diplomats the development of British-Russian relations and some international issues, including disarmament. Special attention may be paid to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the light of the efforts both Russia and Britain are making to help settle it. According to some British sources, the British ambassador to Russia, Sir Rodric Braithwaite, has also been appointed his country's envoy to Armenia and Azerbaijan. On March 11, an aircraft will be leaving Basel for Nagorno-Karabakh carrying a load of privately organised British aid—food and medicines—for Armenians and Azerbaijanis who have suffered in the course of the hostilities. In the British diplomatic service, Hogg is apparently the number-two person after Douglas Hurd. He deals with disarmament issues and Britain's relations with Russia and other CIS countries. There will be a press conference for Hogg at the British Embassy in Moscow (Naberezhnaya Morisa Toreza 14) at 6 p.m. [1500 GMT] on Tuesday March 10.

Meets With Official

LD1003194792 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 10 TASS—First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev today met British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hogg to discuss topical aspects of the situation in the CIS.

The Russian side confirmed its interest in constructive and equal cooperation among the CIS member-states on all the range of their relations.

A special attention was given to the Karabakh conflict. Meeting participants agreed on the need for more active efforts to peacefully settle the problem. The Russian side stressed its readiness to continue the mediating mission on Nagorno-Karabakh recently substantiated by the CSCE mandate.

Hogg noted his upcoming trip to Azerbaijan and Armenia is bound to contribute to the soonest stage-by-stage unblocking of the conflict and is an action to support the efforts of Russia and international institutions in this respect.

Nechayev Holds Rome Talks on Italian Credits

LD1103110192 Moscow TASS in English 0700 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Bukalov and Aleksey Golyayev]

[Text] Rome, March 11 TASS—Russia will have to assume the responsibility for the former Soviet Union's foreign debt as other Commonwealth republics refuse to pay their portions, Andrey Nechayev, Russian minister of economy, said at a news conference in Rome.

Nechayev is in Rome as head of a delegation discussing prospects for using Italian credits. The delegation has held talks with Guido Carli, Italian minister of the Treasury, and Vito Lattanzio, minister of foreign trade.

Italy agreed to grant the former Soviet Union 7.2 trillion lire (about seven billion U.S. dollars) in credits till 1995, but suspended the credits after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russia will receive about 75 per cent of this sum, the rest will go to other Commonwealth states. However, Russia, which is facing a heavy burden of foreign debt payments, insists on 80 per cent.

Nechayev stressed that Russia has always been the major hard currency contributor to the country's budget, despite the fact that it received only 56 per cent of all imports to the Soviet Union.

Battalion To Arrive in Yugoslavia Early Apr

OW1203174092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1407 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; report by "M. Mayorov, I. Porshnev and others"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP ["Diplomatic Panorama"] has learned that a Russian battalion will begin to be deployed in Yugoslavia as part of U.N. peacekeeping forces. Besides, a Russian serviceman in the rank of colonel will be in charge of a sector in Eastern Slovenia where U.N. peacekeeping forces will be stationed. It's the first instance of Russian servicemen's joining the "blue helmets". The presentation of the Russian battalion took place in Hyazan last Saturday [7 March].

As the Russian Foreign Ministry explained, the last obstacles on the road of despatching Russian servicemen to Yugoslavia were lifted when Russia's parliament approved the relevant proposal of President Boris Yeltsin. Russia had been requested to send an infantry battalion to Yugoslavia by the U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghaly.

Besides, Russia might despatch a field engineer battalion to Cambodia where U.N.peacekeeping forces are also stationed. U.N. leaders have already asked Russia to do so.

Broadcasting Company Created With U.S.

LD1303023292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1732 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (TASS)—A contract was signed today on the creation of the Russian-U.S. television and radio broadcasting company "Moscow Global" [Moskva-Globalnaya]. It provides for long-term cooperation in the sphere of satellite television and radio broadcasting. The contract was concluded by the Russian state television and radio broadcasting company "Ostankino," the Russian Ministry of Communications' production association "Kosmicheskaya Svyaz" [Space Communications], and the U.S. Federal Contract Institute [Federalnyy Institut Dogovorov SShA]. The first step has thus been taken in establishing permanent television communication between the U.S. and the CIS states via space. The new channel will be open for extensive international television cooperation, above all in the spheres of culture, education, and human contacts. It will also facilitate a direct exchange of information between commercial organizations and entrepreneurs.

Energy Agreement Signed With Germany

LD1203202792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1014 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Stepovik]

[Excerpts] Timmendorfer Strand (Schleswig-Holstein), 12 Mar (TASS)—A conference devoted to the prospects and problems of energy generation development, the deepening of international cooperation in this sphere, ended its work here today. [passage omitted]

Within the framework of the conference the signing of an agreement on cooperation between the Rheinisch-Westfaelische Wasserwerks GMBH concern, the Ministry of Fuel and Power Generation of Russia, and the Moscow Energy association took place. In particular, the agreement envisages cooperation in developing new oil deposits, the handing over of the latest technologies, as well as the rendering of assistance in the transition to work under market conditions. [passage omitted]

Group To Develop Trade With CIS Formed

PM1203131392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the rubric "The Government Has Resolved": "So As to Be on Better Terms"]

[Text] A Russian Government Commission on Questions of Developing Interstate Economic Links with CIS Member-Countries has been formed. It comprises the leaders of nine ministries and departments led by Vladimir Mashits, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation with Commonwealth member states. In line with the project by the "reform cabinet," the commission will help to conduct an agreed policy in the sphere of trade and economic cooperation on the basis of mutual advantage and the free development of entrepreneurship, and will also analyze and monitor the implementation of bilateral treaties and agreements.

Institute Prepares Report on Foreign Policy

MK1203104092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 4

[Yuriy Leonov "Concept" article: "On the Road to the Civilized World. The Commonwealth Is Doomed. Russia Should Abandon Claims to Role As Center As Soon As Possible. That Is the Opinion of the Authors of a Draft New Foreign Policy Doctrine"]

[Text] Lately discussion of Russia's foreign policy concept and complaints about the lack of one have been a very fashionable topic not only in the corridors and offices of the skyscraper on Smolenskaya Square but also in parliament, in newspaper pages, and in academic circles. This topic risks becoming "perpetual," at any rate until the foreign policy strategy of the country's leadership is finally defined and the economic reform moves from a (mostly) theoretical into a practical dimension. Experts attempting to forecast and analyze the foreign policy concept have to proceed from the Hegelian thesis that "all that is real is rational and all that is rational is real." However, this principle, which may be acceptable for sweeping generalizations, in practice misfires rather often and turns analysts' elegant and logical conclusions into a sample of "wishful thinking," or "Manilov pipedreams" [allusion to character in Gogol's "Dead Souls"], as we usually say.

The group of staffers of the MGIMO [Moscow State Institute of International Relations] International Research Center who prepared the report entitled "After the Disintegration of the USSR: Russia in the New World" for a representative scientific and practical conference held recently at the institute decided to base themselves on real existing tendencies, even if these are not yet officially acknowledged and do not arouse positive emotions. The Russian Foreign Ministry, for which the center prepares many studies, thought it best to distance itself from the young academics' work, so the report was published in the name of its authors (it is not all that often that such an analysis is authorized, and still less often is it possible for just anybody to learn the names of the authors by glancing at the title page of the paper) and was sold alongside other books and papers during the conference.

The authors of the report—Zagorskiy, Zlobin, Solodovnik, and Khrustalev—tried to discern amid outwardly chaotic events the trends that are destined to

become the determining ones in shaping the new world. The main conclusion of the work, and it is bound to arouse arguments today, is set out at the very beginning: "The disintegration of the Soviet Union is an irreversible fait accompli. The transformation of Russia into the new 'center' of the CIS or of any other formation that might arise in place of the Union is beyond its abilities and would be disastrous for it. Russia must ensure that the disintegration of the USSR and the associated processes of destabilization in various parts of the world are regulated in nature and must create the preconditions for resolving the main strategic task—moving from the periphery to the center of world development."

The authors support the thesis that the disintegration of the CIS is necessary and inevitable by analyzing and comparatively describing the interests of the members of the Commonwealth, showing that the contradictions between them are confrontational and, in the foreseeable future, insoluble. The authors see as one of the main sources of the CIS' instability the differences that have already emerged in its founders' understanding of the actual essence of the Commonwealth. Russia, which is clearly hoping to become the key link in the CIS, may, in order to implement this task, return as the need arises to the former imperial policy of the Union center, which would be, on the one hand, a ruinous move so far as it is concerned and, on the other hand, useless. So far as Ukraine and partly Moldova and Azerbaijan are concerned, the attraction of the Commonwealth formula lies precisely in the absence of a center. They will not agree to Russia playing a central role in the Commonwealth, and Russian actions in this direction will only radicalize processes of alienation in these states. For Ukraine the CIS is an intermediate stage on the road to total separation. Ukraine wants to become a European power and as soon as possible to become legitimized by taking part in West European processes. Integration within the EC is the aim of the attempts to orient Ukrainian foreign policy toward the West as a matter of priority. This aim seems extremely illusory in the immediate future since, on the one hand, the structure of Ukraine's economy is scarcely capable of changing rapidly (a reorientation toward new markets cannot take place overnight either) and, on the other hand, the EC, preoccupied with the problems of deepening its own integration, will scarcely display particular interest in Ukraine and will not risk finding itself dragged into conflicts in the East. Most probably Ukraine's emergence as a new East European power is strengthening the tendency to keep Southeast Europe as the outer limit of European integration processes. Once it sees this, Ukraine may seek to resume close links with Russia and its CIS partners, but the period of dawning awareness may be quite long and contradictory, may be accompanied by internal conflicts, and may lead to Ukraine's disintegration. Kiev's policy, in the opinion of the report's authors, "no matter how subjective and illusory it may appear, is a reality and must be taken into account in assessing the Commonwealth's prospects."

The retention of links with Russia suits Belarus and to a lesser extent Armenia. Minsk would not want to go down Kiev's road, but, because of geopolitical factors, it cannot ignore the decisions made there. The logic of the further disintegration of the CIS may force Belarus too to distance itself from Russia.

Kazakhstan and Central Asia are more interested in retaining a center as a redistributor of resources and in order to perform arbitration functions in the Commonwealth. The fragmentation of Central Asia is intensifying still more, given the difference in political regimes, and the maintenance of internal stability (especially in Kazakhstan, with the complex ethnic composition of its population and the separatist movements that have already emerged) becomes increasingly problematical in the absence of a strong center. This may make the region's states not only consent to but also desire to transfer the functions of center to Russia. However, Ukraine's position and Russia's objective lack of readiness make this desire scarcely feasible.

The question of elaborating optimum mechanisms for coordinating the CIS states' policy has still by no means been solved. It is exceptionally difficult, if indeed possible at all, to choose methods of coordination that would work to strengthen the CIS. One obstacle to consolidation of the Commonwealth is the heterogeneity of its component parts ranging from states with a traditional "Asian" state structure to states gravitating (albeit not especially successfully) toward the European cultural and political tradition. The stability of such a formation can be ensured (and even then only temporarily) only by reviving imperial structures, which the authors of the report believe is impossible at the present time on the territory of the former USSR.

The factors that it was customary to cite as performing an integration role in relations between the former Union republics do not play such a role, at any rate at present. Economic cooperation and collaboration among the CIS members on the new, market basis is entirely compatible with their further state demarcation. The difference between the concepts, pace, and results of economic reform in the CIS states may become yet another factor making for disintegration. Instead of a uniting function, the nuclear factor may play the role of a powerful promoter of centrifugal tendencies. Fundamental external factors, chief among them the position of the "Big Seven," will prevent any disintegration of the Commonwealth that is dangerous to the West. In the longer term, as market reforms are implemented and the economies of the CIS countries are modernized, they may play a role, at least in the European part of the former USSR. However, today the logic of the disintegration of the CIS is determined largely by internal factors. The EC is showing no interest in integrating the CIS European states within its structures, and Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan do not possess sufficient resources to include the Muslim republics of the former USSR in their own sphere.

In the light of the above, the report's authors pronounce their verdict on the CIS: "The CIS should be regarded as a temporary formation whose main task is to ensure that disintegration processes proceed in a regulated way."

The authors call for a realistic assessment of the consequences of disintegration processes within the CIS so far as Russia is concerned. In particular, this means:

"—A considerable increase in flows of migrants within the CIS, which will mostly be heading for Russia and the other European republics.
"—In conditions of the exacerbation of interethnic and interregional conflicts we must reckon with the prospect of an increase in phenomena such as terrorism.
"—Russia itself will scarcely escape internal disintegrating national and religious movements questioning the Russian Federation's territorial integrity.
"—Most probably Russia will be unable to avoid conflicts in relations with the other republics irrespective of who initiates them and what they are over—borders, the position of ethnic minorities, pro-Russian or anti-Russian separatist movements.
"—The most complex problem is the position of the Russian population on the territory of other states. The need to defend that population's interests too will force Russia to make certain political and financial sacrifices."

The authors believe that the global consequence of the disintegration of the USSR and the forecast disintegration of the CIS will be an end to the existence of a bipolar world. Unlike certain experts, who believe the United States is now the main factor in world politics, they believe that the world is becoming not unipolar, but multipolar (they refer to at least three centers of economic power—the United States, West Europe, and Japan). The authors believe that the predominance of nonconfrontational relations between the leading centers of world politics constitutes the characteristic feature of the new world and the difference between it and the former world with its "opposite poles." The dynamics of the new world system are determined not by rivalry between individual power centers but by the logic of their joint development. This world takes the form of "concentric circles." The most developed countries form its center (the "Big Seven," for instance), and we, that is, Russia and the CIS states, are on the periphery. It is perfectly possible to move from the periphery to the center, but by no means for all countries (within the framework of the current stage of technological development). Russia is faced with a complex task in this respect—moving from the periphery to the center of world development and joining the "Seven." But to claim the role of center in the CIS may deprive Russia of this possibility, in the authors' opinion.

One of the most notable consequences of the USSR's disintegration in Europe may be its regionalization and the formation within it of "subareas" whose stability is problematical. The nucleus of Europe will be the EC, which is scarcely going to embark on integration with the East European states in the near future. In order to remain a European nation, the report's authors believe, Russia will have to abandon alliance commitments with the European CIS partners and at the same time maintain stable and good-neighborly relations with European neighbors, refraining from involvement in resolving their problems and possible conflicts between them. Alliance commitments should not be maintained with respect to the Central Asian states either, where the probability of conflicts is even greater and there is little chance of settling them (Russia could get "bogged down" there just as the Soviet Union got "bogged down" in Afghanistan); Russia is also incapable of shouldering the financial burden of acting as "older brother" in this region. At the same time Russia's traditional links with the Arab world should be retained, thereby influencing the settlement of the Near East problem. Russia's presence and influence in South Asia will inevitably have to be reduced, because the country will not have enough forces and resources in the immediate future.

The consequences of the USSR's disintegration will not have such marked effects in Asia and the Pacific. The main problem after the disappearance of the "Soviet factor" is China's behavior, which it is hard to predict. Provided that relations with Japan are settled, Russia has good chances of joining in integration processes in this region, primarily within the framework of a committee on Pacific economic cooperation.

The authors believe that Russia can resolve their main foreign policy task—moving from the periphery to the center—by relying on its unique intellectual potential, abandoning a global imperial policy and joining in processes of international cooperation, and joining in the emergent process of the synthesis of Europe and Asia.

In a democratic state, which is what Russia wants to become, foreign policy decisions, especially conceptual studies, are bound to be the subject of keen discussion in society, particularly when the position of the authors of a report, so certain well informed experts believe, is close to that which guides people in the Russian president's staff. In that case there are all the more grounds for taking an interest in that position.

Biologists From Novosibirsk Working Abroad

LD1203151192 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Victor Elmakchov]

[Text] Novosibirsk (Western Siberia), March 12 TASS—About 100 qualified scientists from the Novosibirsk Institute of Cytology and Genetics are working on contracts in Sweden, France, Canada, Japan and Germany, Vladimir Shumniy, director of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics of the Russian Academy of Science in Siberia, told TASS on Thursday [12 March].

A large scale "brain drain" from the former Soviet Union was prompted by a lack of money, chemicals and research equipment at the institute, Vladimir Shumniy

emphasised. Special laboratories are being created for Siberian scientists in Mexico and Brazil, and other Russian specialists will soon likely appear there, he added.

However, contracts were never signed with scientific centres of the Middle East of other regions where the knowledge could be used to help develop national biological weapons programmes, the scientist stressed, referring to this week's article in the "ECONOMY AND SOURCES" journal claiming Russian scientists have left "in unknown directions". The journal also reported: "Biological weapon researchers" are more dangerous than departing physics with nuclear "know-how".

St. Petersburg Bank Conference Slated 8-11 Apr

LD1103171192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] An international Inter-Bank Congress—East-West: New Economic Opportunities—will take place in St. Petersburg 8-11 April. Taking part in its work will be central banks of the CIS member states, as well as a number of commercial banks. The organizing committee has received promises to attend and speak at the congress from Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrial Workers, and Konstantin Borovoy, president of the Russian Raw Material and Goods Exchange. Problems of Russia entering the IMF, the preservation of a unified currency space, relations between foreign banks and banks of the CIS countries, and also problems of mutual relations between international bank structures and the bank structures of the CIS countries will be discussed at the congress.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Not To Attend Public Forces Conference

OW1203183792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian presidential press service has denied reports by some media that Boris Yeltsin intends to take part in a conference of public forces scheduled for March 15 on the initiative of the People's Party of Free Russia and the Russian Democratic Party. The press service says "the president does not plan to participate in this forum".

Yeltsin Decrees Minimum Consumer Budget

PM1203162392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Mar 92 First Edition p 5

[Decree No. 210 of the Russian Federation President "On the System of Minimum Consumer Budgets for the Russian Federation Population," under the "Official Section" rubric, signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 2 March 1992]

[Text] In order to provide a system of social guarantees and strengthen social support for the living standard of the population's least protected sections I resolve:

1. That the Russian Federation Government will:
elaborate a republic minimum consumer budget, based on a basket of consumer goods and services which satisfy basic material and spiritual needs;
utilize the minimum consumer budget when formulating long-term socioeconomic policy;
in the period when the crisis state of the economy is being overcome, define the (budget) subsistence (physiological) level, which is differentiated according to the main social groups and which describes the minimum permissible limits of consumption of the most important material goods and services (food products, sanitary and hygiene items, medicines, housing and utilities services;
make a phased increase in the minimum rates for wages, pensions, benefits, grants, and other social payments taking account of the said consumer budgets and real economic potential.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and Employment will:
elaborate during the first quarter of 1992 recommendations as to the method of calculating the minimum consumer budget as well as the subsistence (physiological) level for the republics belonging to the Russian Federation, its krays and oblasts, autonomous oblasts, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg;
give organizational and methodological assistance to territorial organs of administration in the calculation and use of minimum consumer budgets and subsistence (physiological) levels at local level.

3. In order to provide expert opinion on minimum consumption norms and the calculation of all-republic and regional subsistence (physiological) levels a commission will be set up under the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and Employment, with the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation Ministry of Social Protection for the Population, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation State Committee on Statistics, the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, and scientific and public organizations. The Russian Federation Ministry of Labor and Employment will confirm the commission's personnel within two weeks, taking account of the said ministries' proposals.

4. It is recommended that organs of executive authority at local level will:
elaborate a minimum consumer budget taking account of local peculiarities, so that this indicator can be used as a reference point during formulation of a long-term socioeconomic policy in the region;

define regional subsistence (physiological) levels, based on the peculiarities of consumption and resource potential at local level and pegged to the appropriate all-republic indicators.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Moscow, The Kremlin, 2 March 1992

State Insurance Inspectorate Chief Named

PM1203163192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under the general heading "The Government Has Resolved": "Insurance Companies Will Work 'In the Public Eye'"]

[Text] A Russian Federation State Insurance Inspectorate [Gosstrakhnadzor] has been set up in line with a decree by B. Yeltsin. Yu. Bugayev has been appointed leader. It is his job to draft proposals on structure, strength, financial procedure, and material-technical and social-welfare provision by 10 March [as published], as well as draft regulations on the State Insurance Inspectorate.

Gaydar on Need to Avoid Credit 'Rogues'

LD1203230192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] More than ever our economy requires credits, and we are prepared to take them from the governments of foreign states, from commercial banks, and even from private individuals. However, not everything here is clear-cut. Frequently the question crops up of whether a given creditor is worthy of our trust.

This is the point of view of Yegor Gaydar, first deputy premier of the Russian Federation Government:

[Begin Gaydar recording] We do indeed receive an avalanche, a mass, of credit proposals. An overwhelming proportion of these proposals are patently unscrupulous. They come from, let's put it this way, obvious rogues, who only want to get one thing. They want to get a certain paper with the signature of Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] or, if the worst comes to the worst, my signature, saying that such and such a person is authorized to carry on negotiations.

This is approximately how it is done. People approach us and say that a consortium of major firms has a passionate desire to give us 50 billion [currency not specified]—that is, without interest and without repayment! But just one thing is necessary: You simply have to put it on paper that you are willing to take this money. This person then takes the paper, which says, let us suppose, that Gaydar, or worse than that, Yeltsin, is ready to take 50 billion. This paper on its own, such a small thing, allows the rogue who possesses it to approach, let's suppose again, a consortium of Swiss banks and say that Russia wants a major credit from us. Look, I have a letter from Gaydar to prove it! But for this it is necessary—well, and so forth. And for some time, that person can behave like an Ostap Bender. This is the first type.

The second type involves real, existing money, but dangerous money. It is money from drug addiction, connected with drugs, connected with criminal activity, and so forth. This is all part of current reality.

On the other hand, we really do urgently need credits. And we cannot simply say, you know, that we will not talk to anyone at all about credits, basically, apart from governments. Therefore, we have to choose this intermediate option. We try, let's say, to immediately cut out the obvious rogues. We simply try to avoid them. But there are intermediate cases where it is unclear whether there is something in the project or not. Then we have to begin negotiations, and to start with we give some kind of preliminary papers to indicate that we are not making any commitments, and that we do not intend doing anything until serious money is brought to us. Then we watch to see what happens after that. [end recording]

Shakray on 'Unconstitutional' Tatar Decision

OW1203210492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In analogy to the fall of the Soviet Union Russia is threatened by an anti-constitutional coup in the guise of defending "the unity and indivisibility". The Vice Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray said Thursday [12 March] at a session of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation discussing the constitutionality of the impending referendum on the sovereignty of Tatarstan. Shakhray is representing President Boris Yeltsin at the session.

Shakhray said that in this case the question is not so much the constitutionality of the referendum as the defense of the constitutional system, the territorial wholeness of the Russian Federation and the rights of its citizens.

The Vice Prime Minister said that the opinion of experts shows that the decision of the Tatar parliament to hold a national vote is unconstitutional. In addition he said that the President and parliament of Russia are prepared to resort to a broad redistribution of power which is confirmed by the Federative Treaty.

Collegium Discusses Agenda in Closed Session

OW1203165392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] learned from sources close to the Russian Government that the Russian Cabinet collegium had held a closed session Thursday [12 March], discussing a three-point agenda.

The situation in metallurgy in 1992 was No.1; state borders to the defense industry, No.2; and the temporary division of responsibilities among the Russian Federation's government deputy chairmen, No.3.

In contrast to the sessions of the full Cabinet, the collegium usually meets in camera and is composed of the premier deputies and key ministers. Experts in the subjects discussed at a session are usually invited.

Tripartite Commission on Labor Relations Meets

LD1103221192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Russian Tripartite Commission on Settling Social and Labor Relations is being held at government house on Staraya Ploshchad. A draft general agreement between the Russian Government, trade union associations, and entrepreneurs is being examined. The fact of the matter is the leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions have addressed a statement to the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the Government of the Russian Federation, stating that the federation is in favor of price liberalization, but not through the impoverishment of the Russian people.

The Federation is insisting on the state regulation of prices for vital products, goods, and services during the period of the transition to a market under strict control. The question of prices may be solved by means of a compromise, but only after an agreement is reached at the Russian Tripartite Commission. This same commission is due to endorse the composition of the delegation to examine the situation which has developed in the Kuzbass, and to prepare proposals for a solution to the problems which are so worrying to the working people of that region.

This is what Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin said in an interview to our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Shokhin] The fact that the government did not immediately sort out this strike but regarded it as a fact of normal life and found out about the situation does, I believe, show that the government is feeling the pulse of time, and we can sense the support of many trade union organizations at grassroots level for the policy of reforms. That is why we rely on the opinion of the working people if you like.

It is not a government delegation which is flying to the Kuzbass, as demanded by the unions which declared the strike; a delegation of the Tripartite Commission is flying to the Kuzbass, and we would like to put an end to this wanton practice when a government delegation goes out like a fire brigade to this or that incident, or this or that region.

The duty has been imposed on the Tripartite Commission to sort out socio-labor conflicts and quarrels, snuff out strikes, and so on. This in point of fact is the first departure of the Tripartite Commission to sort out what precisely this situation is linked with, and if this is really the opinion of all the working people of the Kuzbass, or is this the position of one of the trade unions. This does not mean that we are not carefully studying or have not already carefully studied the miners' pre-strike demands. We would like first and foremost to air the nature of how these collective disputes in conditions of reform came to a head, but of course we would also like, in our capacity as a delegation of the tripartite commission, to test our own strengths.

[Correspondent] So you are off there then?

[Shokhin] Yes, we are leaving tomorrow, a day later mind than the strike was declared. It seems to me that most of the miners understand the situation, which to a certain extent they themselves have brought about. [end recording]

Burbulis, Shokhin Attend

LD1203172992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In contrast with the Russian president, who by all accounts had pleasant conversations in Dagomys while he was on leave, State Secretary Burbulis has had a difficult time. Trade unions, industrialists and cultural workers were discussing difficult issues.

Today the leaders of the Russian Government discussed a whole range of problems with representatives of practically all social groups. With Aleksandr Shokhin in the chair, the Russia Tripartite Commission continued its work. The various sides, or the three p's as they are called—the government, the trade unions, and entrepreneurs [these words start with a p in Russian]—are discussing article-by-article a general agreement between them for the current year. In particular, it was recognized that price liberalization is an integral element of the economic changes which are being carried out and that the policy of price fixing is the government's prerogative. The names of the members of the delegation which is to leave for talks in the Kuzbass tomorrow were also considered. [Video shows government session chaired by Shokhin]

At the same time, Gennadiy Burbulis chaired a conference on the measures of state support for the sociocultural sphere. Cultural and scientific workers expressed their wishes regarding three documents—the decree by Yeltsin and the government on measures to provide state support for culture and the arts in the period of economic reforms, a decision on especially valuable objects of Russia's national heritage, and a decision to set up the Arbat territorial historical and cultural complex. Well, the government is taking advice from competent people, and this is a good omen. [Video shows meeting chaired by Burbulis]

Intelligentisa Support Enlisted

LD1203115292 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS—Gennadiy Burbulis, the first vice premier of the Russian cabinet, urged men of culture and art to back the government's course of reforms at the government meeting on measures of state support for socio-cultural sphere. The leading Russian men of culture and art, heads of creative unions, representatives of the Russian Government and the Ministry of Culture took part in the meeting.

According to Burbulis, "the aggravation of relations between the conscious supporters of the reforms and their conscious opponents" is expected "within the next four weeks", therefore "there is need" to unite efforts of the government and men of culture and art to "stimulate those Russians who are supporting the reforms" and "neutralize those who would like to complicate our course of reforms" at this moment. He stressed the necessity to ensure the stability of the course of reforms at the present stage so that "the president, the government and the progressive part of the Supreme Soviet deputies would come with confidence" to the forthcoming Congress of Russian People's Deputies scheduled for April 6.

Participants of the meeting took the first vice-premier's appeal positively and expressed their readiness to exert support for the current reforms in Russia.

Military Adviser Urges Rapid Creation of Army

OW1203170992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As soon as the Russian Defense Ministry has been created, it should concern itself with the establishment of the Russian Federation's own military, said Colonel-General Dmitri Volkogonov, Russian president's adviser on military issues, to IF [INTERFAX].

The creation of our own military will take 2 to 3 months or far longer, he said. Volkogonov believes that the decision must be taken before 1992 is out.

He said that "it is necessary to decide who owns the troops on the territories of some of Commonwealth republics that don't need these troops."

The border troops issue, according to Volkogonov, should be decided only on the basis of joint resolutions by the CIS members.

Officers' Union Chairman on 'Nonsense' of CIS

MK1103084992 Moscow Teleradioveshchatelnaya Kompaniya Moskva Television in Russian 1545 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Ye. Kozyreva video report; from the "Moskovskiy Teletayp" newscast]

[Text] Long debates between representatives of military units, various military educational institutions, and other military departments prompted the creation of the Officers' Union, which announced its program at a roundtable at the Russian Parliamentary Center. According to members of this recently established public organization, the fate of the Armed Forces today is being decided individually by people who do not want to heed the words of specialists and who are not specialists themselves. And here is another quotation: At the hands of dilettantes the Army is being pushed closer and closer to the point of collapse beyond which it will have to be reassembled from little pieces. [video shows meeting of officers, civilians in progress, then cuts to show Kozyreva interviewing Lieutenant Colonel S.N. Terekhov, chairman of the Officers' Union]

[Terekhov] At present in practice we have been denied our citizenship in the state for the sake of which we joined the Army and which we served. The state has fallen apart and its Armed Forces are falling apart. They are the last bastion, the last foundation on which we can still act, live, and work for the sake of our future destinies.

Naturally we want to see the state not in the condition that it is in today. In our opinion the CIS is a lot of nonsense.

Writer's Union Venue for Congress Organizers

PM1203214492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Mar 92 p1

[Report by Captain Third Rank A. Pelts: "So What Is Going To Happen 17 March: A Congress of People's Deputies or Just Another Clash?"]

[Text] The closer we get to 17 March, the more contradictory the situation becomes in Moscow and the more we hear all kinds of different opinions on the expediency of reviving the old institutions of power.

The news conference given at the Russian Writers' Union building by members of the organizing committee to prepare for the congress of USSR people's deputies and representatives of the recently created united opposition (consisting of more than 20 political parties and social-patriotic movements of both right and left) prompted considerable interest among journalists.

It began with an unpleasant surprise for its organizers. After a brief introduction by Russian Federation People's Deputy Sergey Baburin on the formation of the

united opposition and its aims and tasks, a representative of the "Christian Rebirth" society requested the floor. He stated that the inclusion of his society on the opposition list is erroneous, since its leaders did not sign the declaration. Admittedly, the confusion did not last long.

"We do not see our desire to convene a congress of USSR people's deputies as in any way violating the Constitution of the USSR or the RSFSR," Sergey Baburin stressed, answering a question on the legality of the planned congress.

The journalists naturally also wanted to know what territories they mean by the Fatherland and in what form it is planned to revive the USSR. This question was answered by several participants in the news conference. It was stressed that the main principle of rebirth lies in the voluntary unification of the USSR and the recognition of unity without violence or any form of coercion. The ultimate goal is the country within the pre-1991 borders. It is not ruled out that other foreign countries may also wish to join the reborn Soviet Union.

Many questions were asked about the reaction of the congress initiators if the congress itself and the rally are banned.

The organizers are considering this scenario. Moreover, the participants in the news conference predict a significant concentration of law and order forces. Some 12,000 militia, 6,000 servicemen from the Dzerzhinskiy Division, 1,500 OMON [special purpose militia detachment] troops drawn from three oblasts, Aleks agency staffers, fire-fighting units with water cannon—that is the force which, according to one opposition leader, could be mobilized by the democratic authorities.

Particular interest was aroused by the question of the proposed government and head of the reborn Union. The proposed candidacy of Nikolay Ryzhkov was resolutely dismissed. Without naming names, the participants in the news conference nonetheless stressed that there are people worthy to form a new government.

Other questions were also raised concerning various problems of the convocation of the congress of USSR people's deputies and the holding of the "Nationwide Assembly [Veche]." The participants in the news conference assured all those present that the congress will be held in Moscow and that it will begin work at 1000 hours 17 March. Admittedly, the venue was not named.

At an evening session of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium specially devoted to the question of the convocation of the congress, however, serious doubts were raised as to the opposition's intentions. The parliament Presidium assessed the attempt to convene a congress of former people's deputies of the former USSR as an encroachment on the Russian Federation's state sovereignty. The general prosecutor was instructed to issue a warning on the responsibility borne by persons insisting on holding the said congress. The Moscow organs of power and City Hall were instructed to adopt measures to prevent unauthorized actions 17 March.

Yesterday, 12 March, another news conference was held by the "Rebirth" party, which belongs to the united opposition, along with certain Moscow Soviet deputies who are worried about the situation surrounding the events planned for 17 March. They reaffirmed their intention to assemble the demonstrators that day at Belorusskiy Station. The rally will be peaceful, Valeriy Skurlatov, one of the activists of the "Rebirth" party, stressed. If, however, violence is used against people, we will be forced to defend ourselves, even going so far as to erect street barricades. And we will immediately call for a general political strike to demand the government's resignation. According to the news conference participants, other political parties and patriotic movements belonging to the opposition have also expressed willingness to hold the rally regardless of any decisions by the authorities.

It seems that nobody is about to back down. It only remains to hope for prudence by both sides.

Congress Could 'Destabilize' Country

OW1203190092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Democratic Party of Russia called the Congress of deputies of the former USSR set for March 17 and the "national assembly" on Manezh Square in Moscow an attempt to destabilize the situation in the country and restore totalitarian rule. The statement distributed by the party Thursday [12 March] expressed the certainty that "government unity on a large part of the territory of the Commonwealth will be restored in time". However, this can only occur "on the basis of good will and must not in any way be tied to the unauthorized, pro-communist congress of People's Deputies of the USSR".

More on Communist Support of Congress Plans

PM1303091892 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by R. Farzutdinov: "On 17 March Anyone Who Wants Will Be Able To Live Under Communism"]

[Text] The leaders of the united opposition who support the holding of the sixth Congress of USSR People's Deputies have held a news conference at the Russian Writers Union building.

At the meeting, Sergey Baburin, chairman of the Russian National Union, stated:

"We cannot remove differences in the views of those who are sitting at this table today. This difference of opinion remains but when it comes to protecting the single state we adhere to the same position."

The leaders of the opposition, which unites former party bosses with longstanding campaigners against the CPSU and the Soviet political system, "firmly stated" once again that come what may "the congress will be convened in Moscow and nowhere else at 1000 hours on 17 March," and promised to provide further information on the actual venue. In Baburin's words, as a lawyer he sees no violations of the USSR and RSFSR Constitutions in the holding of the congress and continues to regard the formation of the CIS as a coup d'etat.

Viktor Anpilov, leader of the communists in the Russian Communist Workers Party, who took umbrage with Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov for calling the opposition putschists, has stated that Popov "is a putschist himself" and described the style of Popov's article in MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS as "purulent phrasemongering."

Toward the end of the performance, journalists were informed that the assembly is not proposing any personalities for the top offices. Because this is not the right time—"it is senseless to proclaim a power which has no power." A very sober thought.

Union Official Rejects Congress of Deputies

LD1103065192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 10 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—In connection with the intention of a number of deputies to hold a Congress of USSR People's Deputies, Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, made a statement on the instructions of the leadership of the union. The statement has been distributed to the mass media.

The statement says that the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs categorically rejects any interest in holding a Congress of USSR People's Deputies on 17 March. The union is an active supporter of the processes of integration of all republics of the former USSR. As far as its powers and opportunities permit, it assists the development of broad and varied relations among peoples and states. [passage omitted]

'Provocative' Character of Congress Previewed

PM1203151092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by A. Pankratov: "Topic of the Day"]

[Text] Even though we are all of Leninist party stock, there is no going back to the past. The intoxicating air of freedom has already played a cruel trick on our society. However, some people can still be intimidated by the holy relics of the CPSU and the specter of communism. Someone is trying to make use of the communists again.

The provocative propaganda character of the events planned for 17 March is obvious. A noisy rally and a procession— of course. A semi-clandestine congress of communists—well, why not? But an extraordinary congress of people's deputies...Even S. Umalatova, chairman of the congress organizing committee, publicly acknowledges: There can be no question of restoring the former USSR! In that case why hold this assembly of deputies who have already disbanded themselves once?

And what do you think about the far-fetched idea of a "nationwide assembly [veche]" whose delegates, no one knows who elected them or when, are to meet at 1700 hours on Manezh Square? Our recent opposition, which has now come to power, never stooped so low. Political theater is in decline: a crisis of the genre, a dearth of talented directors, repeats, plagiarism, even the actors are of lesser stature...

The play is painfully familiar: The Struggle for Power. It is no accident that the middle of March has been chosen for the first performance. The population has virtually finished its food reserves, spent its worthless rubles, and experienced for itself the fact that there are no miracles in the economy.

Look at what is going on. On 20 March there is a meeting in Kiev which does not offer the prospect of accord: States which have already used blackmail against one another (as in the Crimea situation) and force (as with Turkmenistan's gas) are finding it increasingly difficult to agree among themselves. On 21 March there is a referendum in Tatarstan, which, whatever its outcome, will destabilize the political situation in the very center of Russia. On 6 April there is the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation, where the fragile equilibrium among the factions could be shattered at any moment. According to this scenario, for example: a veto on the ratification of the CIS Treaty, a demand for the government's resignation, and an attempt to organize early elections of all the deputies on the specious pretext of adopting a new Constitution...

As a result Russia is facing a dreadful political crisis. It will clearly be started by the mighty wave due to be set in motion come what may on 17 March. The lack of discrimination in the choice of methods and the haste in the steps undertaken indicate that this is only the first act in the drama. It is based on the serious mistakes of the present authorities, the conditioning and study of public opinion, the structural organization and cohesion of the opposition. When will Act Two take place? On 7 November perhaps? Or maybe 19 August. Dates have always had a mystical fascination for us.

Party Questions Government's Credibility

OW1203192592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The federal council of the Socialist Party of Russia called on the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation to "hold a parliamentary session in the next two weeks to discuss the socioeconomic situation in the country and raise the question of the governments credibility".

The statement said that from its beginnings the Socialist Worker's Party stated its constructive opposition to the course the Russian Government was taking. In addition until recently the organization "did not consider it advisable" to raise the question of the government's resignation. The Party was motivated by a memorandum on the direction of the economic policy. The council feels the document "shows that the government is either unable to or does not want to assess the catastrophic process in the economy and social sphere objectively".

News Agency President Remarks on Reforms

OW1103085392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 11 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his government have essentially weathered the critical Russian winter, but the critical situation still remains, a leading Russian journalist said Wednesday [11 March].

"Yeltsin has controlled the current crisis," ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY President Vitaliy Ignatenko told KYODO NEWS SERVICE, predicting that a social consensus on the need for a market economy would be reached by the fall.

In an hourlong interview in Tokyo, Ignatenko, onetime spokesman for former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and now a leading proponent of reform, said a trend toward economic stability will emerge by the fall, by which time the Russian president has vowed living conditions would begin to improve.

On January 2, Russian prices on everything but such daily necessities as food were freed in the first major step toward a market economy.

Yeltsin on Saturday [7 March] lifted price controls on bread, milk, sugar, and other essential food products, dealing a further blow to the Russian population already hit hard by his economic reforms.

In the midst of such hard times, hard-line communists have rallied large numbers of Russians in demonstrations calling for a return to the former planned economy.

In the interview, Ignatenko expressed concern over conservative forces, including former Soviet Communist Party bureaucrats, saying they are openly preparing for a coup.

"The conservatives against Yeltsin are systematically organized and strengthened," Ignatenko said, adding that they want to revive the defunct Soviet supreme, or parliament, and the old order.

He warned of serious conflict if conservative former communists provoke the Russian people and stage a major demonstration in Moscow on March 17 in defiance of a ban.

"The Russian president will come under harsh criticism from parliamentarians when the Russian parliament convenes next month," the news agency chief said in Russian, through an interpreter.

According to Ignatenko, Yeltsin is now in the Black Sea port of Sochi preparing a speech to be delivered to parliament, in which the Russian president is expected to criticize himself for his policies and put forward future prospects, Ignatenko said.

"Who can propose reform policies other than those being pushed by Yeltsin?" Ignatenko asked.

Referring to the military's position toward Yeltsin's reform policies, the pro-reform journalist said the armed forces have given their support to the Russian president and have shown a "proper view" on economic reforms.

But Ignatenko stressed the need to reform the military, reducing the number of military personnel and making the armed forces purely defensive.

He said that the Russian parliament is discussing in detail a plan to establish a Russian military at the request of Yeltsin, who has not formally spoken on the matter.

On a summit meeting of members of the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS) due to take place on March 20, Ignatenko said, "the talks will be the most full-scale ones since (the Commonwealth's) establishment in December."

Ignatenko said that among the topics that may be addressed at the Commonwealth meeting will be measures to prevent a decline in industrial output in the former Soviet republics and such military issues as control of the Black Sea Fleet and elimination of tactical nuclear weapons.

Asked about future prospects for the Commonwealth, Ignatenko noted a movement in Ukraine to break away from the CIS and become a republic with no relationship to the Russian Federation. Russia and Ukraine, the two biggest members of the ruptured Soviet Union, have a long history of both interrelation and animosity.

Ignatenko acknowledged that the CIS is very fragile, but said that each member would stay in the Commonwealth if a central organization to coordinate member countries is set up to guard against Russian hegemony.

He also admitted the possibility that the Russian Federation could collapse as the Soviet Union did if independence movements spread among the so-called autonomous republics within Russia.

Asked about a planned visit to Japan by Yeltsin in September, Ignatenko predicted the Russian leader

would bring "a new idea" on a decades-old dispute, in which Japan claims its territorial right over four small Russian-held islands seized by the Red Army at the end of World War II.

But he said that "Yeltsin will confront the same problem which Gorbachev faced—public opinion." Polls have found a strong opposition among Russians against returning the islands to Japan.

Ignatenko also noted that a draft of the new Russian constitution requires that any change in national borders be decided through a referendum by the people of the federation.

The dispute over the four islands off Hokkaido has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from concluding a peace treaty and developing full-fledged bilateral relations.

New Price Rises To Effect Family Budgets

PM1203170192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "New Wave of Price Rises Will Begin in Russia in April"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA's correspondent asked Candidate of Economic Sciences V. Mau, a government expert, to say how we are making ends meet and what should be expected tomorrow.

"A mild euphoria really can be observed today because the government, contrary to pessimistic forecasts, has held out in the face of the difficulties of winter and our economy, contrary to gloomy assessments, has not ended up drained but is still alive," my interlocutor said.

"According to the classic scheme, goods appear four or five weeks after a liberalization of prices. That is roughly what has happened here. Following the catastrophic fall in the ruble exchange rate against the dollar last year—this rate reflected the correlation of currencies in commodity exchange operations, chiefly in the household equipment category—the ruble has begun to rise. Some people consider the present increase artificial and attribute it to government intervention. There has been nothing of the sort. The government's meager currency reserves have not been used for these purposes, and the Central Bank of Russia has spent only a few million dollars on the exchange and is in no hurry to make a serious currency intervention.

"A depressing sign today is the drop in production volumes. But, again, it is not progressing. It has also been possible to curb the growth in money emission despite the surge in prices and the increase in payments.

"The budget deficit has been held below 3.5 percent of GNP.

"According to the government's estimates, the average level of price increases in April-May will stand at 50-70 percent. Of course, the prices of some types of output will increase many times over, while the increase for others will be barely noticeable. There are two extremes of a possible scenario for the development of events. With a huge rise in energy and fuel prices, energy-intensive production processes could perish because they will be unable to ensure production. To obviate this, the government will be forced to grant them preferential credits—which will increase money emission and cause a danger of hyperinflation. It is between these two extremes that the government's sensible policy must lie. Measures and levers of influence are now being specified so as to maintain a balance in the economy.

"Still, the rise in the prices of many commodities and also of electricity, including domestic electricity, and heating will hit family budgets hard," V. Mau continued. "In this connection the government is working out options for the population's social protection, including indexation of incomes for working people in budget-funded organizations and supplements to pensions and minimum wages. The strategy here is not to automatically compensate everyone—both the needy and the rich—for the increased living costs but to give targeted assistance to those who will be unable to live without it. At the same time it should be borne in mind that the state power cannot work miracles. Any apparently 'kind' gestures such as a sharp and global increase in wage levels would result in a leap in inflation, and the needy would suffer still more," the government expert said in conclusion.

Group To Help Stabilize Nagorno-Karabakh Formed

OW1003191392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF [INTERFAX] learned from reliable sources that the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry had formed a Nagorno-Karabakh group composed of 7 officials and headed by Vladimir Zemskoy, first deputy director of the Commonwealth Department. The group supervisor is Fyodor Shelov-Kovedyayev, first deputy Russian foreign minister. The group has held its first session and is working on "a package of materials" that are intended to help stabilize the Karabakh situation. It may send representatives to Karabakh very soon. The Russian diplomats are coordinating work with international colleagues, including Europeans who are searching for a solution to the Karabakh problem.

A senior staffer of the Russian Foreign Ministry told IF that the ministry group had been set up in conformity with the documents of the Moscow meeting between the Armenian and the Azeri foreign ministers, with Russian mediation, that took place in late February. He reminded that the meeting had decided to set up a three-way working group to search for a mutually acceptable solution to the Karabakh conflict. "The Russian

Foreign Ministry acts on the assumption that the agreement remains in force. In fact, the Russian part of the group is already in place," emphasized he.

Supreme Soviet

Khazbulatov Supports Government Reorganization

OW1203163792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian parliamentary leader Ruslan Khazbulatov said that he would suggest that Russian President Boris Yeltsin reorganize the government and nominate a prime minister. Khasbulatov said at a Thursday [12 March] news conference at the House of the Soviet that the present-day Cabinet "was divorced from reality and was not flexible" and knew very little about economics.

The parliament chairman conceded that if the April congress throws out a new Russian constitution, the consequences may be dire as the parliament may lose its prestige with the population.

Touching on the situation in Tatarstan in connection with the referendum in the republic set for March 21, Khasbulatov said that he was opposed to using coercive methods against that republic.

On Misperceptions of Democracy

PM1203205692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Speaker of Russian Parliament Accuses Government of Onslaught on Democracy; He Sees This as Main Threat to Existing System in Russia"]

[Text] Opening the morning session of the Russian parliament 12 March, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov stated that a government onslaught on representative power is currently under way.

In his opinion a number of government members (no names were named) regard representative power as only one of the components built into the structure of presidential power. This attitude to representative power, and consequently to democracy in general, R. Khasbulatov stressed, is today the main threat to the existing system. The parliamentary speaker proposed that the chairmen of the chambers hold parliamentary hearings with a view to clarifying how deputies and leading members of the government perceive the concept of "democracy."

This statement was made in the context of the parliamentary speaker's report on the results of the closed session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium held the previous day. As you know, this session examined the situation that has arisen in Moscow in connection with the political actions planned for 17 March. R. Khasbulatov spoke very sharply about the statement by Moscow Mayor G. Popov, which points to the involvement of certain parliamentarians in the organization of these actions. He described the statement as unethical and disrespectful.

Despite the close connection between the two actions—the congress and the rally—they are on different legal footings, R. Khasbulatov stressed. The attempt to hold a so-called congress of USSR people's deputies is directed against the Russian parliament, and the deputies should therefore not hesitate to recognize that this is an unconstitutional act, the Supreme Soviet chairman stated.

As for the planned rally, under existing legislation, in the parliamentary speaker's view, nobody is entitled to ban it. However, Moscow City Soviet and the capital's government are obliged to take every possible step to avoid clashes and provocations.

On Adoption of Constitution

LD1203134192 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Galina Vinitskaya and Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—Although Russian parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov is sure the adoption of a new Russian constitution is "the main task of the oncoming Congress of Russian People's Deputies", he doubts that would happen as "it will not be an easy congress", he told a news conference on Thursday [12 March]. However, no constitutional crisis will break out if deputies reject the proposed draft, he added.

Khasbulatov hopes the congress, scheduled for April, will approve the draft constitution upon the first reading.

Khasbulatov said President Boris Yeltsin and he himself try to persuade all political forces that it is necessary to adopt the constitution. If their attempts fail, a number of serious amendments to the constitution will be advanced, he added.

Khasbulatov believes the Russian president should reorganise the government and nominate new prime minister before the congress.

On Georgia, Shevardnadze's New Post

LD1203165692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1536 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Instability in the Northern Caucasus "is stimulated to a vast extent by the outflow of refugees from South Ossetia (Georgia) to North Ossetia (Russia)," Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, considers. He sent a message today to Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman

of the State Council of Georgia, in which he congratulated him on his appointment to the supreme state post "of friendly Georgia."

Events in the region "are developing by no means along the lines of peaceful and democratic resolution" of the problems which have arisen, Ruslan Khasbulatov noted. "All of this arouses very serious concern in the Russian parliament and bewilderment among the broad public who are inclined to give resolute support to the Georgian authorities which overthrew the antidemocratic Gamsakhurdia regime," the message says.

The chairman of the Russian parliament expressed the hope that Eduard Shevardnadze will use "all his vast influence to effectively resolve the fate of the South Ossetian people in accordance with the universally recognized norms of democracy and autonomous development within the framework of the independent Georgian state."

Condemnation Issued on Attacks on Servicemen

PM1303142792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center statement dated 11 March]

[Text] In certain CIS states (Republic of Moldova, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan) there has recently been an increase in the frequency of attacks on military units by armed formations and extremist groups for the purpose of seizing weapons and combat hardware—attacks which have entailed fatalities among servicemen. These facts arouse grave concern in the Supreme Soviet leadership and in the corps of deputies of the Russian Federation. Particular alarm and indignation were elicited by the bandit-like attack on an anti-aircraft missile brigade's military camp (Artik city, Republic of Armenia), during which servicemen died and were injured and 10 officers were also taken hostage by deceit.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet believes that a dangerous precedent has thereby been set for the escalation of similar crimes in other regions and for the army's involvement in interethnic and interstate conflicts.

The Russian corps of deputies fully shares the demands of the public to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia to take measures without delay for the release of the hostages, for a careful investigation into that incident, and for those guilty to be brought to justice.

In connection with the extremely dangerous situation which is taking shape, on 11 March the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopted an appeal to the president and the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia and to the heads of state and the Supreme Soviets (parliaments) of the CIS member countries, which will be published in the press.

[Signed] Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Press Center

11 March 1992

Escalation of Actions Viewed

LD1203184192 Moscow TASS in English 1758 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—The attack on the Army cantonment in the Armenian city of Artik and the seizure of ten officers as hostages have created a dangerous precedent for the escalation of similar actions in other regions and for the involvement of the Army in inter-ethnic and inter-state conflicts, says the Russian parliament's statement addressed to the president and the parliament of the Republic of Armenia, the parliaments and the heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and servicemen of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

"Attacks on military units by armed formations and extremist groups for the purpose of seizing weapons and military hardware have become frequent in some CIS member-states of late. Such attacks entail loss of life among servicemen," points out the statement which was adopted here today.

The Russian parliament suggests that the parliaments of the CIS member-states and the state council of the Republic of Georgia consider without delay the question of a legal status of the CIS Joint Armed Forces stationed on their territories.

The parliament of Russia intends to request the CIS heads of states, at their forthcoming meeting in Kiev on March 20, to sign an agreement on a legal status of the CIS Joint Armed Forces to ensure safety living and working conditions for servicemen and members of their families. The parliament called on the servicemen of the CIS Joint Armed Forces to exercise self control and keep calm in any situations and not yield to provocations on the part of extremist forces.

The parliament of Russia assured that it would firmly stand on guard of the interests and safety of servicemen.

Resolution Passed on Pace of Agrarian Reform

LD1203115892 Moscow TASS in English 1111 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet (parliament) today passed a resolution on the pace of agrarian reform in Russia, instructing parliament committees and commissions to draft new and revise current legislation related to the reform.

The state committee on antimonopoly policy and support for new economic structures was instructed to monitor prices imposed by monopolist manufacturers of farm machinery in order to avoid disparity of prices.

The Supreme Soviet gave the republic government until April 20 to submit to the parliament a draft programme for agrarian reform between 1992-1995, to envisage in the 1992 state budget of the Russian Federation a 50 per cent compensation for the expenditure on fuel and lubricants used in field work by agricultural commodity producers. It also proposed that agricultural commodity producers be given priority in privatising processing and agro-service businesses, enterprises of the rural construction industry and building organisations, preserving the rights of the labour collectives and administration of enterprises, as is stipulated by applicable law.

Other measures include providing incentives for making effective use of unclaimed land plots, allocating state centralised investments for the construction of agro-industrial facilities at a level not below 1991 (not less than 17 billion roubles in 1991 fixed prices), drafting a state programme for the development of machine-building for the Russian agro-industrial complex within three months.

The parliament recommends that the government facilitates the conclusion of intergovernment agreements with CIS states, the Baltics and Eastern Europe on preserving the specialisation of machine-building enterprises, gears production at converted military plants to agricultural uses and promotes reciprocal deliveries of farming equipment for 1992-1995, considers issuing a loan to raise funds to finance agrarian reform.

Roundup of 11 Mar Supreme Soviet Session

LD1103221992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 11 March broadcasts a 28-minute recording of the 11 March session of the Russian Supreme Soviet held in Moscow.

The recording begins with Khasbulatov introducing a speaker on the draft law on the activities of private detective and bodyguard agencies in the Russian Federation. The law is voted on and passed.

At 1802 GMT deputy Andronov spoke about his visit to Karabakh before deputies switched to agrarian issues. A deputy from the podium proposes and explains various amendments which need to be introduced to the ongoing agrarian reforms. Khasbulatov says that some of the amendments will need to be discussed by the deputies. Deputies from the floor voice their views on the matter. They touch on the price of fuel, machinery, materials, etc. Some deputies appeal for an increase in the amount of money the government is allocating for the agricultural sphere. They are concerned about the amount of fuel available for agriculture. One deputy says that a minister or deputy prime minister, for example Gaydar or Khlystun, should be present. Khasbulatov agrees and the deputies decide to return to the issue at the next session.

At 1817 GMT the deputies went on to discuss a draft law on collective agreements in the sphere of labor. A speaker, briefly quoted, presents the draft which is followed by a vote, which adopts the law in principle. Deputies then propose amendments to it from the floor. They discuss when the law should be introduced—in a month's time, 1 May, or at moment of publication. The speaker is in favor of 1 May.

Deputy Novikov then proposes from the floor that the Supreme Soviet should discuss the situation with the army hostages in Armenia. A speaker from the podium says that the officers have not been released. Filatov, now in the chair, proposes that a document on this issue be prepared overnight and be presented to the Supreme Soviet tomorrow.

At this point the recording ends.

Observer Views Parliamentary 'Polemics'

PM1303131192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by Robert Minasov: "In Blast of Polemics"]

[Excerpts] Parliamentary observer Robert Minasov reports from the White House.

It would seem that the situation which has taken shape in the Supreme Soviet should have dictated tough rules of the game. But the facts attest that parliament is chronically exceeding the schedule, frequently getting bogged down in polemics. On the one hand, it would seem a good thing that the deputies are approaching each question of the slightest importance with such diligence. On the other hand, heated battles are arising most frequently around incomplete plans which have not been fully worked out in the committees and commissions. [passage omitted]

The deputies spent nearly an hour on a discussion of yesterday's agenda (11 March). Here too things did not go smoothly. Sergey Nosovets, member of the Supreme Soviet, sharply opposed Sergey Baburin who, in his opinion, by his provocative (that is the word he used!) proposals is trying to turn parliament into something like a meeting. The deputy had in mind Baburin's proposals for including on the agenda the Moscow mayor's address on the appearance of several tens of thousands of gunmen in the capital 17 March. This time too Baburin did not forget Honecker, stating that this old and sick man should be given the opportunity to travel where he wants. [passage omitted]

Regional Affairs

Mayor Popov Responds To Calls For Dismissal

OW1203210792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gavriil Popov has characterized a statement by Chairman of the Russian Supreme Council Ruslan Khasbulatov on the possibility of his dismissal from the post of the Moscow Mayor as "provocative and absolutely illegal". In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] in St. Petersburg where he arrived on a brief visit Thursday [12 March], Popov said that it is neither in Khasbulatov's nor the Supreme Council Presidium's jurisdiction to decide whether he corresponds with the post. "That is why I do not expect that Khasbulatov's statement will bring real results", Popov noted.

Speaking at a meeting of the Supreme Council's Presidium the day before, Khasbulatov expressed the opinion that Moscow executive bodies obviously fail to perform their duties. In this connection he made clear that corresponding parliamentary committees should consider preparing a draft resolution of the Supreme Council on Moscow Mayor's resignation.

Internal Affairs Asked To Prevent Congress

MK1303090192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 13 Mar 92 p 1

[City Hall Press Center report: "Congress Outlawed?"]

[Text] Moscow Mayor G. Popov has agreed to the holding of the 17 March rally. It will take place, as its organizers requested, in Manezh Square between 1700 hours and 2200 hours; roughly 100,000 people will take part. Only the theme is being changed. It will not support the holding of a congress of USSR people's deputies, as was stated in the application; instead it will support the results of the nationwide referendum of 17 March last year. The mayor's directive states that in line with the resolution of the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet dated 11 March 1992, the actions of the organizers of the so-called extraordinary congress of USSR people's deputies are deemed to be anticonstitutional. The rally organizers have been instructed to distance themselves from the congress organizing committee. However, they have not done this. Any actions aimed at holding the congress will be regarded as unlawful and liable to criminal prosecution. A session of the anticrisis committee under the Moscow Government which met yesterday tasked Ye. Savostyanov, chief of the Russian Security Ministry Administration for Moscow and Moscow Oblast, and A. Murashev, chief of Moscow's Internal Affairs Main Administration, with taking all possible measures to prevent the Congress from being held.

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0800 GMT on 13 March reports that: "In connection with the planned 17 March meeting, Moscow Procurator Gennadiy Ponomarev said in a television interview that the Procuracy and law enforcement bodies should be fully equipped and ready for any situation which may arise where there is a large concentration of people. The Moscow government also stated that former deputies will not be prevented from entering the Kremlin's grounds, but any attempt to use the Kremlin Palace for the congress will be considered illegal and unlawful."]

Autonomous Regions Will Sign Federation Treaty

LD1203153592 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Golubtsova]

[Text] Hanty-Mansijsk (Tyumen region, Siberia) March 12 TASS—Heads of autonomous regions and areas inside Russia will sign the Federation Treaty in Moscow on March 20, according to a decision they adopted at a two-day meeting which closed here on Thursday [12 March].

The decision is extremely important for the adoption of a new Russian constitution at the oncoming congress of Russian people's deputies, scheduled for April, according to Ramazan Abdulatipov, speaker for the House of Nationalities of the Russian Parliament, who attended the meeting.

The division of powers between the central government and republican authorities inside Russia is the most disputed issue of the draft constitution.

The meeting also discussed the main founding documents of the association of Russian autonomies, created in Hanty-Mansijsk the other day. They are the association's charter and the founding agreement.

St. Petersburg Seeks Arms Export Approval

LD1203050692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] The heads of the arms industry of St. Petersburg have asked the Russian Government for permission to export military equipment and weapons. They believe that ending licensing for deliveries abroad, tax concessions, and social protection measures for experts will help preserve one of the most developed sectors of industry.

Chechen Parliament Declares Independent State

LD1203194892 Moscow TASS in English 1931 GMT 12 Mar 92

[BY ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy March 12 TASS—The Chechen Republic has been declared an independent secular state.

In accordance with a constitution, which the Chechen Parliament adopted today, a permanently functioning Parliament shall be the supreme body of legislative power while the executive branch—a Cabinet of Ministers—is headed by a president.

Kabardino-Balkar Republic Established

LD1203170492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1604 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik, 12 Mar (TASS)—As of today Kabardino-Balkariya (North Caucasus) is called the Kabardino-Balkar Republic (KBR) [Kabardino-Balkarskaya respublika]. Its Supreme Soviet, taking into account the new political realities, has adopted a decision to drop from its name the words "Soviet" and "Socialist". A new power structure has been confirmed in which the government is now called the cabinet of ministers and includes the posts of ministers of external relations, the press, and information. By decree of KBR President Valeriy Kokov, a government has been formed in which Georgiy Cherkesov has become prime minister. He is a Balkar by nationality.

Kuban Chief Interviewed on Yeltsin Visit

PM1103170792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Interview with V.N. Dyakonov, chief of the Kuban administration, by correspondent Konstantin Aksenov; place and date not given: "Peaceful Nights in the City of Sochi"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] B. N. Yeltsin's television appearance on the evening of 10 March evidently put an end to the rumor which had been current among Western correspondents to the effect that the Russian president was vacationing not in Sochi but near Moscow. Speculations as to his presence were fueled in particular by stories such as the claim that Boris Nikolayevich did not want to attend the presentation of the M.S. Gorbachev foundation. If he did go to Sochi then it was later than officially announced....

Even before the television broadcast, our correspondent in Krasnodar Kray, Konstantin Aksenov, asked V.N. Dyakonov, chief of the Kuban administration, to comment on these views.

"I met the president myself at the airport on the first day of his leave," said Vasiliy Nikolayevich. "From there he immediately went to his vacation venue, where we had a thorough talk on the situation which has taken shape in the Kuban, in the region bordering on Georgia, and on other important problems. In particular I reported to Boris Nikolayevich on the program which has been elaborated for the region's development, which was of interest to him. After our meeting a number of experts arrived from Moscow at the president's instructions for a detailed study of the document. Of course, the president is on vacation and is engaged in sporting activities. But I know that Boris Nikolayevich's portfolio contains six or seven new decrees, on which work is being completed."

"In what sanatorium is the head of Russia? Is that a secret?"

"The president is vacationing in a government dacha by the sea in Sochi. Why do I say a dacha? Because it does not have a name. There is simply a dacha for the country's leaders—that is the entire 'secret.'"

'Unconstructive' Kuzbass Strikes Lack Support

MK1203140592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 p 2

[Tatyana Malkina report under the "Labor Movement" rubric: "'All-Kuzbass Strike' Did Not Materialize, Although Miners Have No Fewer Problems Than Before"]

[Text] In the opinion of the Council of Kuzbass Workers Committees, the speculative attempt by the Federation of Intersector Trade Unions to organize an "unlimited-duration all-Kuzbass strike" failed not so much because it was "called off" by a government telegram promising that a commission would arrive in Kemerovo (headed by Shokhin or Poltoranin), but because the strike call was simply not supported by Kuzbass working people. Admittedly, because of the organizational inexperience of the FNPR [Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia] in handling strikes, some credulous school teachers did send their charges home. In addition to this, FNPR reported that 20 enterprises in Kemerovo employing a total of 1,700 people staged warning strikes. The FNPR information center was unable to tell workers committees, surprised by the low number of strikers at these mini-enterprises, who exactly was on strike, since the trade unions were only interested in the number who had downed tools. It turned out that the low number had a simple explanation—the 20 enterprises involved were storekeepers unhappy at the consequences of [price] liberalization.

The Independent Miners Trade Union and the Kuzbass Workers Committee do not support the idea of a strike, regarding it as provocative and unconstructive. The workers are inclined to try to resolve at least some of their problems around the negotiating table with representatives of the commission that is coming to see them Thursday [12 March].

The report that the miners have passed a vote of no-confidence in Oblast Administration Head Mikhail Kislyuk is not exactly true and was inspired by Aman Tuleyev and other "comrades," Aleksandr Aslanidi, Council of Kuzbass Worker Committees deputy chairman, believes. Incidentally, as a result of the unexpected upsurge of official trade union activity, Kislyuk

had to make a last-minute cancellation of his "strategically important" trip to the United States, which, according to forecasts, promised to net about $500 million for the Kuzbass. Confirming that the situation in the reformed Kuzbass indeed leaves much to be desired, Aleksandr Aslanidi noted: "Still, if communist strike committees have sprung up, it means everything is doing fine—reform has arrived!"

Preparations for Siberian Congress Outlined

LD1203232792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2136 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Excerpts] Krasnoyarsk—On March 10, the organizing committee for the preparation of a congress of Siberia's soviets (councils), scheduled for March 27-28, held its session in Krasnoyarsk. Nataliya Menkova, a member of the working group to organize the congress of Siberia's soviets, told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the session adopted a preliminary agenda for the March 27 congress to be held in Krasnoyarsk:

1. The legal, economic, and social situation in Siberia.

2. A draft constitution of the Russian Federation.

3. The position of soviets as representative bodies in the power structure.

4. Coordinating the activity of Siberia's soviets of people's deputies.

Invitations to take part in the congress have been sent to 17 territories and republics of Siberia, which will be represented by 21-member delegations at various levels (for example, the Irkutsk delegation will include two people's deputies of Russia, 15 deputies of the regional council, and 4 deputies of city district councils). To hold the congress each region will have to spend approximately 10,000 rubles. [passage omitted]

On March 12, Boris Perov, co-chairman of the Independent Siberian Party and member of the working group, circulated at a Tomsk regional council session a statement entitled Highlights for the Congress of Siberia's Soviets from the Tomsk Region Delegation. Perov proposed to adopt a declaration on Siberia's state independence at the congress, proclaiming itself as a supreme body of state power in Siberia for a transitional period, abolishing all bodies of colonial Russian power at the local level.

The congress should proclaim all the mineral resources, bodies of water and airspace of Siberia to be the property of the Siberian people, and also issue a memorandum on Siberia's social, economic and political situation, appealing to the world community to recognize the Siberian independent state. According to Perov, the congress should also elect the president of the Siberian state for a transitional period and also take full control of all enterprises, state institutions, armed forces, border, interior troops and KGB.

Perov announced that the congress should ban foreign firms to take part in prospecting, developing and extracting mineral resources and rescind all privatization acts and establish control over the Siberian state's basic industries. Perov also proposed that the congress should adopt decisions providing for the deportation from Siberia of all convicts and exiles convicted outside Siberia, also a constitutional ban on bringing into Siberia industrial waste and on evacuating all waste brought in earlier. There are also plans for the congress to set up a commission to assess the damage caused to Siberia by the colonialists, whereupon it is proposed to present a suit via international juridical bodies on reimbursing the damages, providing in particular, for the return to Siberia of historic, cultural and other values earlier taken away from it.

Siberian, Far East Town Association Meets

LD0903145892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The first session of the Association of Siberian and Far Eastern towns took place in Barnaul. Those taking part in it were representatives of 12 towns of this vast region. They discussed and adopted the rules of the new organization.

A decision was made to set up a data bank with a single information system. A scientific council of the association was set up which will monitor political, economic, and other issues of the regional cooperation. Leading experts of Siberian and Far Eastern towns will be trained from time to time at the Siberian cadre center, which was set up on the basis of the former higher party school in Novosibirsk. Members of the council were informed about a meeting which had taken place between representatives of the association and the Russian Government with regard to problems of developing Siberian and Far Eastern towns.

International Affairs

Government Agrees to Joint Debt Responsibility

OW1203192292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reliable sources told "Interfax" that Ukraine agreed to sign a memorandum on joint responsibility for the former USSR's foreign debt. The agreement was reached Wednesday [11 March] in Moscow at talks between the Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin and the First Vice Prime Minister of Russia Gennadiy Burbulis.

Until yesterday Kiev was against joint responsibility for the USSR's foreign debt which amounts to 89 billion dollars, and insisted on paying its share independently (16.37% of the debt).

During the talks Fokin insisted that Ukraine be made a co-chairman of the Intergovernmental Council (IC) overseeing the foreign debt. Representatives of Russia and Kazakhstan are the current chairs of the IC.

Sets Conditions for Signing

OW1203215192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As "Interfax" reported earlier quoting informed sources at a meeting Wednesday [11 March] in Moscow between the Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin and the First Russian Vice Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis, Kiev agreed to sign a memorandum on joint responsibility for the USSR's foreign debt. The memorandum was signed by the majority of Commonwealth States in October of last year.

"Interfax" also learned that Ukraine set two conditions in signing the memorandum:

- First Ukraine must know how much and to whom it must repay.

- Secondly, Kiev agrees to join the Interstate Council overseeing repayment of the debt if decisions will be passed by 80% of the votes.

Well informed sources told "Interfax" that consultations on the subject between Russia and Ukraine are going smoothly and a favorable decision may be reached in the next few hours.

Chairman Proposes Debt Service Alternative

AU1203153392 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No 6 (35), Feb 92 p 1

[Commentary by Les Tanyuk, chairman of the People's Council: "Ukraine—a Sprinter or a Long-Distance Runner?"]

[Text] Ukraine Prime Minister Fokin appealed to international financial circles with a proposal regarding the repayment of the former USSR's debt. He asked the G-7 to recognize the Ukrainian share as 16.7 percent of the debt and to let Ukraine participate in international currency operations. Such recognition and support of Ukraine's right to its share of all former USSR assets will, in Fokin's opinion, become a guarantee for Ukraine's fulfilling its international obligations and prompt the world to treat it in a chivalrous fashion.

Thus, as the joke goes, it only remains to convince Rothschild. Rothschild is in no hurry to give us fresh credit, however. If Russia promises to repay $50.1 billion (61.1 percent of the total, amounting to $82 billion) and Ukraine its $13.42 billion, then who will repay the rest of the debt, some 22.5 percent or $18.48 billion? This is the other republics' share of the debt.

Today, Russia is, to a certain extent, in a morally advantageous situation. Having declared itself a successor to the USSR and insisting on centralized guarantees for repaying the debts, it has created a better image for itself in international financial circles than Ukraine. For precisely that reason, the actions by the Russian leadership which unilaterally appropriated foreign and domestic gold and foreign currency assets, foreign property, and real estate still have not resulted in decisive condemnation, although they do result in international bewilderment. These lawless acts are considered as though they are in a good cause—the repayment of debts.

Russia, having violated the accord signed on 4 December 1991 on the succession with regard to the Union assets and debts (let us point out that the Statutes of the Interstate Council were adopted without Ukraine's participation and the current operations of Vneshekonombank were suddenly halted), has put its international partners in a delicate situation and they cannot conceal their nervousness. We must not become involved in such a delicate situation.

By suggesting this approach, Fokin acts like a sprinter. This is a race over a short distance. How about the long haul? Taking Russia to the International Court in the Hague for its attempts to seize common property is, today, almost an unrealistic undertaking. The financial world knows that Russia is unable to repay its debts, whether they come due today or tomorrow. Nor will there be a division of the former republics' property abroad after such a trial.

At the same time, Ukraine has found itself in a complete financial blockade. We cannot even make use of the

credits (such as the $50 million granted to us by Canada) that have already been agreed upon. Therefore, do not count your chickens until they hatch. Incidentally, the printing of Ukrainian currency also depends on this.

In my opinion, it is more advantageous for Ukraine to play the role of a long-distance runner rather than that of a sprinter. In order to be able to obtain new credits, it is necessary to meet the G-7 halfway in resolving the debt-related conflict. In order to get something larger it is necessary to give up something smaller—more specifically, our own ambitions, or perhaps even our advantages. (By slowing down the Ukrainian hryvnya [proposed Ukrainian currency] campaign, we can invest our "wooden" money in real estate, and the identity of those who possess millions of "wooden" rubles is no secret to anyone).

We suggest a different approach. It is necessary to immediately begin negotiations to the effect that Ukraine is ready to assume responsibility for the other republics' share of the debt (if they agree to this arrangement)—in conjunction with Russia—in proportion to these two countries' shares of the debt. Under these terms, Russia would be responsible for 78.87 percent of the debt (an additional 14.58 percent or $64.68 billion total) and Ukraine (an additional 21.13 percent or $17.32 billion). Ukraine would therefore be guaranteeing the repayment of $3.9 billion more. Of course, it will be more difficult to repay a larger percentage of the debt, but doors would open for additional credit and Ukraine will be liberated from the general financial siege.

Ukraine must continually reinforce its reputation as a reliable partner keen on stabilizing relations with Europe-America-Asia. We must not play on Russia's chessboard, as this will surely be a losing game. It would be better to place the chessmen as we find proper and make the first move.

I am asking the members of the People's Council to analyze all the "pros" and "cons" of our alternative. The figures I have quoted are from the report by O. Savchenko, deputy chairman of the board of the Ukrainian National Bank. He is one of those who shares the idea outlined here.

A financial war must first be won psychologically, and the winner will be the one who is confident of his strength and is able to convince others of it. He who proposes an advantageous alternative, rather than the one who begs, will be the winner.

How one runs, then, is of no importance. What is important is to reach the goal as fast as possible.

Foreign Minister Favors European Integration

OW1303004292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko has stated that the creation of the Council of North-Atlantic cooperation would provide another opportunity to establish relations of partnership between the NATO countries and the states of Central and Eastern Europe. He said this upon arrival in Kiev from Brussels Wednesday [11 March] where he attended an emergency session of the Council of North-Atlantic Cooperation.

Zlenko stressed that Ukraine is an independent sovereign state which had proclaimed itself nuclear-free and neutral. "Ukraine stands for democracy, human rights and pays special attention to its integration into the European political and economic structures", Zlenko noted.

European Council Delegation Ends Visit

LD1203121192 Moscow TASS in English 1931 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Ivan Saiko]

[Text] Kiev March 11 TASS—The head of the European Council for Security and Cooperation (ECSC) mission, Jan Ludvik said today at the end of the delegation's four day visit to Ukraine, that Ukraine is on its way to be a progressive independent state. The delegation consisted of representatives of foreign ministries and different organizations from Sweden, Austria, Spain, Canada, Poland, Czechoslovakia and France.

The guests were received today by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic Ivan Plyush. During the talks, hope was expressed that the high authority of the ECSC mission and the meetings held during its visit to Ukraine will actively help in forming a public opinion in European countries about the impossibility of a revision of the existing borders. The head of the mission spoke in favour of Ukraine having its own representation in the ECSC centre for prevention of international conflicts.

Diplomatic Relations Established with Slovenia

LD1203130392 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Discussed at the Kiev round of talks between the Deputy Foreign Minister of Slovonia [as heard] Zoran Thaler and leadership of Ukraine's foreign ministry were questions pertaining to the expansion of bilateral ties between Slovonia and Ukraine. Signed was an agreement on establishing diplomatic ties between the two republics.

Taiwan To Provide Medical Assistance

LD1103074192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Taiwan is to give Ukraine $15 million in free medical assistance. A representative of Taiwan's foreign

affairs [as heard] today stated that the first batch of medicine will be sent at the end of March.

Australian Ambassador Presents Credentials

LD1103163192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The appointed extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Australia in Ukraine, Cavan Hogue, presented his credentials to Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk. During the ceremony, the ambassador assured the president that he will promote the development and strengthening of relations between Ukraine and Australia. [passage omitted]

National Affairs

Supreme Soviet Discusses, Adopts Draft Laws

LD1203142592 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Today parliament continued its work. Discussed first at the sitting of the Supreme Soviet was a draft law on introducing changes and amendments to the law on local soviets of people's deputies and local self-government. The need for this arose in connection with the adoption by parliament of the law on representatives of Ukraine's president.

The law gives many functions of the executive authorities which were earlier fulfilled by the soviet of people's deputies to presidential representatives in the regions and cities of Ukraine in order to activize the laws which will be adopted. [passage omitted]

The deputies of the Supreme Soviet adopted the draft law on introduction of changes to the law on local soviets of people's deputies of Ukraine and local self-government in the first reading. Deputy Boris Markov presented to the parliamentarians the draft law on bankruptcy. This law was worked out jointly by the Cabinet of Ministers with the deputy commission of Ukraine's parliament. [passage omitted]

The draft law was adopted in the first reading and forwarded for finalizing. Also today the deputies discussed the draft law on consumer cooperatives.

Parliament Approves Foreign Investment Law

LD1203081292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament has adopted a law on foreign investment. For the first time, foreigners are allowed to purchase Ukrainian property. In accordance with the law, which comes into force today, all current joint enterprises operating on Ukrainian territory are exempt from tax for five years.

Trans-Carpathia Adopts Law on Self-Government

LD1203112892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The session of the Trans-Carpathian region soviet [as heard] has adopted the draft law of Ukraine on a special self-governed administrative territory Trans-Carpathia. This has been done in reply to the electorate's request. The deputies adopted an appeal to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine with the request to consider and support these documents.

Rukh Cautions Against Self-Government

AU1203130092 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Commentary by "INTELEKT": "Rukh Against the Autonomy" of Transcarpathian Ukraine]

[Text] The Transcarpathian Oblast Council of Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] has appealed to the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine with a request not to consider the proposed draft law on the self-governed administrative territory of Transcarpathia, because elements of political autonomy prevail in it.

Supreme Soviet Designates Ukraine's Independence Day

AU1303085392 Ivano-Frankovsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[UKRINFORM report: "24 August—Ukraine's Independence Day"]

[Text] This was the decision adopted by Ukraine's Supreme Soviet on 20 February. From now on, this day will be considered Ukraine's state national holiday.

At the same time, the session canceled its decision on celebrating the state holiday on 16 July.

Bill on President's Representatives Adopted

AU1303090392 Ivano-Frankovsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial commentary: "President Wants to Have His Representatives. Is It Diktat From Above or Division of Power?"]

[Text] The deputies' attitude to the bill "On Representatives of the President of Ukraine" submitted by L.M. Kravchuk for the Supreme Soviet's consideration was not simple.

The bill envisages that the president's representatives must head local state administrations. They must be in charge of implementing Ukraine's laws, of coordinating the activity of organs of executive power with regard to questions of law enforcement, national security, and statistics, of carrying out control over the fulfillment of the republic's Constitution and laws by organs of state

executive power and by local and regional self-government bodies, as well as by enterprises, organizations, and institutions. The representatives of the president have no right to resolve questions that are within the sphere of competence of organs of local and regional self-government. They must act within the framework of existing legislation and be answerable for illegal acts and actions.

With regard to the Crimean ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic], the president will have his representatives there, in accordance with the document.

During the discussion of this question, individual deputies expressed fear that the introduction of the post of representative of the head of state will result in dissolving local soviets, strengthening the administrative system, and the curtailment of democracy. However, as L.M. Kravchuk said in his concluding speech, such fears are without any foundation, because the Constitution of Ukraine and the effective laws will not allow any diktat to be established. On the contrary, the division of power will guarantee democratic transformations.

As was expected, people's Deputy V.M. Chornovil sharply criticized the bill. At the same time, he proposed that the Supreme Soviet adopt a resolution on conducting a specific experiment involving introduction of local self-government in Lvov Oblast. However, this proposal, which had also, incidentally, been voiced before, was not met with approval.

The presidential bill was adopted at first reading.

President Appoints Ministers, Other Officials

AU1203173992 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 9 (55), Feb 92 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] Ukrainian President L.M. Kravchuk has issued a series of decrees with the following appointments:

Sytnyk Viktor Petrovych—Ukraine's vice prime minister;

Antonov Viktor Ivanovych—Ukraine's minister of machine building, military-industrial complex, and conversion;

Borysovskyy Volodymyr Zakharovych—Ukraine's minister of investments and construction;

Pyekhota Volodymyr Yuliyovych—minister of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers;

Yemelyanov Oleksandr Serhiyovych—Ukraine's state adviser for questions of economic policy;

Zhulynskyy Mykola Hryhorovych—state adviser for questions of humanitarian policy;

Yemets Oleksandr Ivanovych—Ukraine's state adviser for questions of legal policy;

Yukhnovskyy Ihor Rafayilovych—Ukraine's state adviser for questions of scientific and technological policy;

V.S. Horyunov—president of Ukraine's state company "Ukrnaftokhim";

P.K. Hermanchuk—Ukraine's deputy minister of finance (M.P. Petrachenko dismissed from this post of his own will);

V.T. Krutous, I.G. Koval, Yu.O. Momot, and V.M. Yarchuk—vice presidents of the state administration for Ukraine's railroad transport.

State Duma Created by Presidential Decree

AU1303082992 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 9 (55), Feb 92 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Decree on the State Duma of Ukraine" issued on 25 February in Kiev]

[Text] Proceeding from the need to elaborate the main trends and principles of the activity of the organs of state executive power for questions of internal and external policy and economic and social development of Ukraine, I resolve as follows:

1. To create the State Duma of Ukraine.

The president of Ukraine is chairman of the State Duma of Ukraine. The prime minister of Ukraine is deputy chairman of the State Duma of Ukraine.

2. To create, within the State Duma of Ukraine, boards for questions of economic, scientific and technological, humanitarian, and legal policy.

Ukraine's state advisers are in charge of the leadership of the boards.

3. Deputy chairman of the State Duma of Ukraine is commissioned to submit, by 1 March 1992, draft statutes on the State Duma of Ukraine and proposals with regard to its composition and organizational and technological provision.

4. Expenses associated with the activity of the State Duma of Ukraine in 1992 must be covered at the expense of the capital obtained as a result of the reduction in the organs of Ukraine's state executive power.

5. The decree becomes effective from the day of its signing.

[Signed] President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk

[Dated] Kiev, 25 February 1992.

Rukh Comments on Republican Party Statement

LD1203200392 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Les Tanyuk, member of the central leadership of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], chairman of the People's Council [democratic opposition in Ukrainian parliament], and people's deputy, called the URP [Ukrainian Republican Party] statement on political consequences of the third assembly of Rukh an unreasoned step by the URP leadership.

In Les Tanyuk's opinion, in the case of URP's real secession from Rukh, which has not happened yet, it will considerably weaken not only Rukh but also URP itself and may lead to division in the Republican Party because there are many URP members actively working shoulder to shoulder with nonparty people and members of other parties and do not share the view of the URP leadership on the issue of membership in Rukh, which in the localities is a real counterweight to reactionary local authorities. One would not want a split to occur in the URP between the leadership and rank-and-file members, Tanyuk said. Les Tanyuk connects the appearance of the URP leadership's statement with the struggle in the Republican Party's leadership in which a possible split appears between the position of Stepan Khmara, deputy chairman of the party, and his supporters on one side, and the position of Levko Lukyanenko, the chairman of the URP, and his supporters.

Market Traders Shun Coupons in Some Cities

PM1103111992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[KHARKOV-NOVOSTI report in the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" column: "The Rate of the Coupon Continues to Fall"]

[Text] In city markets traders are refusing to accept coupons from customers.

In Kiev, Kharkov, and Lvov the rate of the coupon to the ruble is 1:1, in Odessa they are giving only 90 kopeks for a coupon, while in Dnepropetrovsk the rate is even lower—70-80 kopeks.

Belarus

Country's Servicemen Recalled From Transcaucasus

LD1203185892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1739 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Minsk, 12 Mar (TASS-BELTA)—The Belarus Supreme Soviet adopted a decision today to recall from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova the servicemen on regular service, who are Belarus citizens, as well as all those who have been called up from the republic's territory. There are 1,750 Belarus citizens serving as soldiers and noncommissioned officers in the Transcaucasian republics and 44 in Moldova.

The parliament's decision says that the servicemen are being recalled "in accordance with the declaration on state sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, the law on citizenship, as well as in connection with the complex political situation in the Transcaucasian region and Moldova and the ongoing military operations there in the course of which people have been killed and wounded."

The decision also says that the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command should ensure that these servicemen return to Belarus territory no later than 20 April.

True, these measures will not solve the problem completely, since together with rank and file there are 37,000 officers called up from Belarus who are carrying out their military duty on the territory of CIS member states, including the Transcaucasus. The BELTA report mentions that 3,000 of them are ready to return home immediately.

Finnish Foreign Minister Continues Negotiations

LD1103172992 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 1800 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The fruitful dialogue between the Republic of Belarus and the Finnish Republic, which began in February with the signing in Helsinki of an agreement on establishing diplomatic relations, continued today in Minsk. Finnish Foreign Minister Paavo Matti has arrived on a short visit. Questions of developing and deepening political cooperation, consular relations, and the main thing, trade and economic links, were at the center of attention during the negotiations.

Both republics have a certain amount of experience in trade and economic links. Leading Finnish firms are providing help in the construction of a factory for producing baby food in the Minsk rayon, a combine for producing ecologically pure foodstuffs in Logoysk, and a housing estate in Maryina Gorka for the families of servicemen arriving from Germany.

Paavo Matti Vaeyrynen gave assurances that the Finnish side attaches great significance to the preparations of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation with Belarus. According to him, the signing of this document will assist in the development of a fruitful dialogue.

Procurator's Office Drops Coup Investigation

OW1303001192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Belarus procurator's office dropped several investigations into the "alleged support of the August 1991 coup attempt by the republican bodies of power."

Acting Belarus procurator general Vladimir Kondratiev writes in a memo to republican premier Kebich that "the KGB staff refused to execute the commands of the coup leaders, including that of the USSR KGB chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov on putting the state security troops on heightened alert status." The memo says that the actions by the Belarus KGB contained "n corpus delicti and the criminal case against them was dropped."

The investigation revealed that a number of top republican Interior Ministry staffers did comply with a number of coup leaders' instructions but the investigation did not establish "a collusion between them and the coup participants aiming to give the latter real support." The case against them was also dropped.

The investigation revealed that Justice Minister Leonid Dashuk and his deputy Vladimir Lovchi had overstepped their powers during the coup. But the memo says that "they did not do real harm to public and social interests, and the criminal case against them is dropped due to the absence of corpus delicti."

Shushkevich Criticizes Idea of Referendum

MK1003104592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Mar 92 p 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report: "Stanislav Shushkevich Does Not Want a Referendum. Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers Call on Compatriots To Support the Existing Authorities"]

[Text] As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has already reported, on 23 February the Belarussian People's Front began a campaign to collect signatures demanding a referendum. According to the law, 350,000 signatures need to be gathered. The Central Electoral Commission has registered a question formulated as follows: "Do you think elections to the supreme organs of state power of the Republic of Belarus should be held in the fall of 1992 on the basis of the law on elections of Belarussian people's deputies whose draft has been submitted to the Supreme Soviet by the BPF [Belarussian People's Front] opposition and therefore the present Supreme Soviet should be dissolved ahead of schedule?"

At a press conference Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich sharply criticized both the very idea of the referendum and the formulation of the question. He

likened it to the wording of last year's referendum on preserving the USSR. Shushkevich said that the people who want to come to power by means of the referendum have no clear economic program, whereas the existing government has a concept and is working according to a plan. Parliament, according to the Supreme Soviet chairman, has also adopted many good laws, but it must improve itself. Shushkevich again dredged up the idea, thrown out by deputies in December of last year, of reorganizing parliament with a two-tier structure, on the "Congress-Supreme Soviet" pattern, and creating a lesser Supreme Soviet on the basis of the existing Supreme Soviet. According to the head of the republic, there is no reason to try to hold a referendum "by some allegorical method" on a draft law on elections that parliament has not considered.

The bill in question formulates the BPF's position. It is based on the Georgian law on elections. According to the draft, the Belarussian parliament would be unicameral, but 80 seats would go to deputies elected on party tickets, and another 80 to deputies elected from single-seat districts. Given the undeveloped nature of the multiparty system, two main political forces would have chances of success; the BPF and the post-communists.

A joint session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers adopted a statement saying: "Today the process of the emergence of political parties is only beginning. They are small, are gathering experience, and do not yet reflect the full range of the population's interests. So it is too soon to speak of a real multiparty system in our society." Much of the lengthy statement is devoted to argumentation and theses: "Methods [as published] to show that the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers are solely to blame for the collapse of the economy, the decline in people's living standards, and other negative phenomena are nothing other than an attempt to weaken state power and intensify crisis processes."

As we were told at the referendum action group, 120,000 signatures have already been collected. Almost no one in the republic doubts that the 350,000 required by the law will be collected. After this parliament must ratify the decision to hold the referendum. It is already clear that the opposition's attempt to carry out a change of government by legal means will meet with resistance from the supreme legislative organ.

Signature Collection Continues

OW1203192892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The collection of signatures in support of a referendum on confidence in the republican parliament and government continues in Belarus.

As an initiative group on holding the All-Belarussian referendum told IF [INTERFAX], by March 12 some 200,000 signatures have been collected while 350,000 are required. The collection of signatures will be completed in late April.

Meanwhile, IF's correspondent learned that on Thursday [12 March] several district executive committees of Minsk stopped to certify signature blanks provided by initiative groups.

Local authorities explain their actions with a recommendation by the first deputy chairman of the central electoral commission Semyon Mokhovikov not to register these blanks since citizens have written their passport data, not typed it.

The initiative group has expressed protest against this practice to the Belarussian Prosecutor General.

Export Restrictions Lifted To Restore Ties

LD1003151592 Moscow TASS in English 1333 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Minsk, March 10 TASS—The need to restore severed economic ties between Commonwealth member-states have urged the Council of Ministers of Belarus to partially lift tough restrictions on republican exports.

Belarussian enterprises will be able to export a considerable part of their production without licences.

The only condition for such deals is that Belarussian products should not be merely sold, but exchanged for completing parts, raw materials and energy resources.

Officials believe that lifting of export restrictions will help stabilise the economic situation as early as in March, provided the volume of production declines only by two or three percent.

Moldova

Defector Warns Dnestr of Attack on Dubossary

OW1203172892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] State secretary of the Dnestr Moldova Republic Valeriu Litskay told IF [INTERFAX] that a Moldova defector had warned the Dnestr republic's authorities concerning the preparation for an assault on the city of Dubossary by the Moldova police set for March 12-13.

According to Litskay, on the right bank of the Dnestr opposite to the city, there are around 300 staffers of the Moldovan special police that has in recent days been concentrating there.

The Moldova Interior Ministry press-bureau dismissed these reports as a "deliberate provocation aimed at

destabilizing peace on the left banks established due to the Moldova leadership's conciliatory policy."

Moldova's premier Valeriu Muravschi said on behalf of the republican president and government that the leadership would do their best to prevent a bloodshed in the Dnestr region.

In a Wednesday [11 March] evening Moldova TV appearance the premier emphasized that if the attempts to settle the conflict in the Dnestr region fail, the republic will request the UN to send in a peace-keeping force.

According to Muravschi, the developments on the left bank are connected with attempts by certain Russian forces to restore communist rule.

[Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 12 March, in the Vesti newscast, reports: "Today we received a telegram from Dubossary from Dyukarev, a deputy in the Dnestr Republic Parliament. Referring to defectors from the Moldovan side, he reported that an attack is being planned for today on Dubossary by a force of 1,000 volunteers and 1,000 OMON men and special purpose troops. This telegram, to all appearances, has turned out to be true. In any case, this afternoon exchanges of fire began in the Dnestr region."]

Dnestr Guardsmen Attack Police; One Killed

LD1303140592 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 13 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau, March 13 TASS—Dnestr guardsmen clashed with Moldovan police in a highway between Bendery and Kaushaniy on the right bank of the Dnestr in Southern Moldova today, killing one officer and wounding another, the republican interior ministry officials reported.

One of the guardsmen was also killed in the shoot-out, they said.

The four guardsmen opened fire when police were checking their Gaz-53 truck, shooting officer Fedor Buga in the head and killing him. Lieutenant Viktor Shkepa was shot in the arm.

One attacker was killed in the gun-battle and three others retreated under the cover of darkness, abandoning their truck. Police found grenades, one sub-machine gun and ammunition inside.

In another incident, armed Dnestr guardsmen detained two Moldovan policemen in Bendery on Thursday [12 March] as they were leaving the city for Chisinau, the Moldovan interior ministry reported.

The police were escorting two men who had been detained in a stolen Vaz car. "We have liberated you from the Romanian yoke," the guardsmen told the suspects, took off their handcuffs and let them free. They, however, decided to return to Chisinau with police officers.

Dnestr Officials Stripped of Deputies' Powers

LD1203173992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1655 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau, 12 Mar (TASS)—Moldova's Parliament today made the decision to strip Igor Smirnov, president of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic—which is not recognized by Moldova—and a number of other members of the leadership of Pridnestrovye of their deputies' powers. They have been stripped of their mandates of people's deputies of Moldova "for taking part in anti-constitutional organs of government".

Romanian Politicians Ask for Troops to Moldova

LD1203105492 Moscow TASS in English 1634 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, March 11 TASS—Leaders of several political parties in Romania demanded to send troops to Moldova to protect Romanians living there. The demand was voiced on Tuesday [10 March] at a meeting of Romanian President Ion Iliescu with leaders of the main political parties, TASS learned today from sources close to the leadership of the country. The demands were made in a form of ultimatum, the sources said.

However, Iliescu resolutely condemned the demands to use Romanian troops in Moldova. He believes this might lead to uncontrolled developments in the region, to an international isolation of Romania and to numerous casualties in Moldova, according to the sources.

Certain forces in Romania would like to take advantage of the present-day moment and of "undecisive actions of the Russian leadership", the leader of one political party, who attended the Tuesday meeting, told TASS. The fact that Russia did not publicly condemn the actions of illegal armed units in Moldova creates an impression in Romania that the democratic leaders of Russia approve of their behaviour, he added.

In such conditions any slightest request for help from Moldova can be viewed as completely legal and the Romanian leadership will not be able to ignore it, said the leader who asked not to be named.

Protocol on Diplomatic Ties Signed With France

AU1203185392 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1700 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 12/3/1992—At the end of the talks in Paris, conducted between French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his counterpart in the Republic of Moldova, Nicolae Tiu, a protocol was signed on the establishment of diplomatic ties between Moldova and France, and negotiations were held on the opening of embassies. Question were also approached with regard to bilateral ties and the visit the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, is to pay to Paris.

The Moldovan foreign minister announced that work started on a bilateral treaty of friendship, which will also contain details concerning economic cooperation between Moldova and France.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Holds Talks With Moscow Delegation

LD1103222192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent D. Baybetsov from Kazakhstan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A delegation headed by Deputy Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov was received by Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The conversation dealt with establishing direct contacts between the two capitals and creating more favorable conditions for mutually beneficial cooperation between Kazakhstan and Moscow in various branches of the national economy.

We depend on Kazakhstan, and its farms are in need of deliveries from Moscow, Luzhkov said. It is envisaged that Kazakhstan will provide Muscovites with grain and meat and dairy products, and in return it will be getting equipment for the processing industry. Moscow is also ready to engage itself in building sausage processing factories, bakeries, and other small enterprises in Kazakhstan or for example in constructing mini-electric stations, which are irreplaceable in the steppe areas, in summer pastures and at deposits for geological prospecting. What is more, they are very economical.

They also spoke about the need for close links in the sphere of science, art, and culture and about the need to set up a small art academy in Alma-Ata. An agreement was signed at the end of the meeting on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the government of Moscow city for 1992.

Socialist International Official Meets President

LD1203151392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1324 GMT 12 Mar 92

[KAZTAG correspondent Uraz Serikbayev—TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 12 Mar (TASS)—Kazakhstan's desire to retain a single economic space and common strategic armed forces in the CIS was confirmed today by Nursultan Nazarbayev, the republic's president, during a conversation with Hans-Jochen Vogel, deputy chairman of Socialist International, who is completing his tour of Commonwealth countries.

According to Nazarbayev, this must be attained in a civilized way, without the demonstration of superfluous illusions and imperial aspirations. The CIS has prospects, but it needs coordinating bodies for vital areas of its activities, the president noted.

Touching on nuclear weapons, Nursultan Nazarbayev said that the republic is aware of the full weight of its responsibility and will strictly observe all international agreements.

Discusses Possible Membership

LD1203104792 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Uraz Serikbayev for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata March 11 TASS—The vice-chairman of the Socialist International, Hans-Jochen Vogel, did not rule out the possibility of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan (SPK) becoming a member of the Socialist International during his meeting in the Kazakh capital today with the co-chairmen of the political executive committee of the SPK, Ermuhamet Ertysbayev and Anatoliy Antonov. When this question was brought up for consideration at the initiative of the SPK leaders, Vogel said that he is not authorised to discuss it.

Vogel informed the interlocutors, he has come to Kazakhstan wishing to acquaint himself with the process of democratization in the republic's life, the pace of economic reforms, and also to study the possibility of establishing contacts at party level.

The SPK leaders gave their own analysis of all spheres of the republic's life, underscoring mainly the Socialist Party's support for the policy of President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Independence for Coal Mines Called 'Pipe Dream'

PM1203152392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Video report by G. Sytykh, L. Padiarov, and V. Kholodkov from Karaganda; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Sytykh] The question is now: What should be done with this coal? Should the miners sell it themselves, or should the Karagandaugol Association, in which all the mines are associated, be involved? Of late a trend toward mines' economic independence has emerged. But when they got down to working everything out in detail, it came to light that full economic independence is a pipe dream and that it is impossible to get by without the association. Despite the fact that mutual trust between miners and the administration was undermined long ago, they are forced to coexist, despite the fact that they view the problem of the 15 percent [reference unknown] from opposite sides of the spectrum.

[V. Ivanyushkin, chairman of the joint strike committee] I believe that we can reach agreement with the Ukraine regarding deliveries. What we need is metal and timber—timber from Russia—and equipment. The collective will choose its partners itself.

[L. Smal, engineer at the "Kazakhstanskaya" mine] We are not thinking just about ourselves. After all, we supply the city population, doctors, teachers, etc.—people with no protection at all.

[Sytykh] But are miners in the mood to work, and do they understand that ultimately only productive labor can pull us through, that there is no other solution?

[Unidentified person] Yes. The men do understand.

Armenia

Soldiers Vow To Execute 'Hired Killers'

PM1303105892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Taranov: "Soldiers Vow To 'Execute Hired Killers'"]

[Excerpts] Five people died and over 20 houses were destroyed as a result of a rocket bombardment by the Armenian side of the Azerbaijani city of Agdam which began early in the morning of 12 March. [passage omitted]

A news item disseminated by the LUR agency is worthy of attention: At combat positions near Askeran a meeting of soldiers in Armenian self-defense detachments took place, at which an appeal to the CIS states' leaders was adopted. The document says, in particular, that "in the critical situation that has arisen for Nagorno-Karabakh we will be forced to execute every hired killer on the spot, irrespective of his nationality." By "hired killers" the Armenian forces' soldiers mean former servicemen in CIS troops who are volunteering to serve in the Azerbaijani Army.

There is no denying that this is one news item that does not inspire optimism.

Nagorno-Karabakh Discussed With UK Minister

LD1303050592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0228 GMT 13 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 13 Mar (TASS)—Sir Rodric Braithwaite, ambassador of Great Britian to Moscow, became the first foreign ambassador to be accredited to Armenia; true, he combines posts [po sovmestitelstvu]. He presented to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan the credentials of the ambassador of the United Kingdom to Armenia in Yerevan on 12 March. Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, who arrived here on a short visit, was present at the ceremony.

The state minister had a conversation with the Armenian president during which, according to the press service of the republic's leader, he briefed him, in particular, on the results of his visit to Baku and on his impressions of his meetings with representatives of power and of the People's Front of Azerbaijan. Putting forward the Armenian leadership's position at the guest's request, Levon Ter-Petrosyan stated that the presence of the CIS peacekeeping forces, whose activities along with the observation of bilateral cease-fire agreements should be supervised by observation commissions of the CSCE, may be a real guarantee of a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh and of the restoration of peace in the region. Political talks in which the participation of Nagorno-Karabakh in the capacity of an independent political factor is obligatory should follow the creation of security guarantees, the president stressed. Armenia may play a secondary role in these talks and will agree to any decisions that satisfy the people of Karabakh, Levon Ter-Petrsoyan stated. Touching on mediation by third countries, the Armenian president spoke out against Turkey's participation. Yerevan thinks that the latest pronouncments by some official representatives of this country bear witness to its deviation from the policy of neutrality.

Douglas Hogg had a conversation with Armenian Minister of State Vigen Chitechyan and met representatives of party factions and Armenian parliamentary groups. Talks with Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan took place late in the evening.

At a news conference, Douglas Hogg expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit to Armenia. In his words, the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh was at the center of the talks in Yerevan. In the Britsh minister's opinion, there are no contradictions that are impossible to overcome, and the CSCE is ready to assist the beginning of talks between Yerevan and Baku in which the participation of representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh is obligatory. He also spoke out in favor of an urgent end to bloodshed in the region and of the beginning of the process of talks under the aegis of the CSCE. The autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh with all the ensuing consequences as part of a sovereign and independent Azerbaijan; this is the formula proposed by Douglas Hogg.

It is planned that Douglas Hogg will meet Catholicos Vazgen the First, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, in Echmiadzin today. After that, the British minister of state will leave Armenia.

Failed Arms Deal Said Cause of Hostage Taking

LD1203141192 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—Armenian militants, who attacked a military township near the city of Artik and took ten hostages on Sunday [8 March], claim they had agreed with the military to buy weapons to arm Nagorno-Karabakh units, TASS learned by telephone on Thursday [12 March] from the office of the chief aide to the Armenian president.

However, when the "Getashen avengers" arrived for the weapons, the military did not fulfill their promise. Shooting started as a result, some soldiers were killed and ten officers taken hostage, according to the source.

The press centre of the CIS Armed Forces strongly doubts the version. Commanders of the air-defence unit in Artyk could not promise anything to the militants, as unsanctioned transfer of weapons and armaments is a military crime liable for a severe punishment, up to 15

years in prison, Nikolay Medvedev, a spokesman of the press centre, told TASS on Thursday.

However, Medvedev admitted there were cases when soldiers and officers sold stolen weapons. But most of the weapons illegally delivered to Transcaucasia are seized during armed attacks on the CIS Armed Forces, he added.

70 such attacks were registered from January 1 to March 6 this year. 95 percent of them happened in Transcaucasia and the northern Caucasus. 19 soldiers and officers died in the attacks and 23 were wounded. 2,000 firearms and 60 pieces of military hardware were seized, according to Medvedev.

Immigration Not Choice of Yerevan Residents

OW1303002292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The majority of residents of Yerevan surveyed said they do not want to immigrate to the United States or "another country" even if the opportunity presented itself. That was the result of a survey of 1200 residents of Yerevan conducted by the social research center of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

30% of those surveyed expressed a willingness to immigrate, 44.3% wish to remain in Armenia.

Those between the ages of 18-30 were most inclined to immigrate. At the same time, workers, intellectuals, and businessmen did not show an interest in leaving their native land.

The director of the social research center Gevork Pogosyan said in an interview with "INTERFAX" that nearly 500 thousand people want to leave Armenia.

Parliament Decides To Retain Army Property

NC1303163492 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Yerevan, 13 Mar (ARMENPRES)—During its closed-door session on 12 March the parliament continued to debate over relations with the CIS Joint Armed Forces stationed in Armenia and the forces' artificial reduction in combat readiness.

Following a number of speeches by the deputies, political group and party representatives expressed their views on the matter.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Vice President and Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan spoke about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and expressed their views on the bills submitted for consideration.

The president specifically noted that so far mutual loyalty has been maintained in relations between the Army on the one hand and the authorities and the population on the other, and this principle should be followed in the future as well.

After the exchange of views, the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision "on measures to tighten up retainment of military property belonging to army units stationed on the Republic's territory."

Foreign Minister Visits Mideast Countries

Comments on Syria

LD0903000192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1930 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Subbotin]

[Text] Damascus, 6 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan ended his visit to Damascus on 7 March with a meeting with Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad. The guest passed to the Syrian Arab Republic president a message from his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrosyan. During a conversation the situation in Armenia and in the Near East and ways for developing bilateral ties were considered. The heads of foreign policy departments of Syria and Armenia signed an agreement on establishing diplomatic relations between Damascus and Yerevan.

Summing up the results of contacts in the Syrian capital, Ovanesyan expressed satisfaction with the conversation with the Syrian president and also with the establishment of diplomatic relations. He called this event the first step on the road of developing bilateral cooperation in the interests of the Armenian and Syrian peoples.

Replying to questions by Russian journalists, Ovanesyan stated that—although his present trip around some Near East countries, among which he mentioned Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt—was aimed mainly at establishing diplomatic relations with them and arranging bilateral cooperation in various fields, nevertheless, the subject of Nagorno-Karabakh was the center of attention at the talks. According to the minister, this is explained by the fact that recently the situation there noticeably aggravated due to attempts by the Azerbaijani side to resolve the problem by using force. I think, the leader of the Armenian diplomacy stressed, that Karabakh is not a religious or national issue between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This is the issue of human rights and national self-determination. We hope, he continued, that the initiative demonstrated by Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev has not yet exhausted itself. In a UN address I also appealed to this international organization with a call to take a more active part in overcoming this problem. At the same time, in our belief, the Karabakh government should be represented at any talks.

Ties Established With Egypt

LD0903210492 Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutikhin]

[Text] Cairo March 9 TASS—Egypt and Armenia agreed to establish diplomatic relations on Monday [9 March]. A corresponding document was signed today by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and his visiting Armenian counterpart Raffi Ovanesyan.

Ovanesyan, who earlier met Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, told reporters the establishemnt of diplomatic relations will promote the development of historic ties between the two countries. Armenia is interested in better contacts with Egypt in economic, trade, scientific and cultural spheres, he said.

Trip Reviewed

LD0903234692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Ovanesyan's visit to the Near East came to an end today. Our correspondent Kim Gerasimov reports from Cairo.

[Gerasimov] At the focus of attention of the Armenian foreign minister's talks was, of course, the armed conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is becoming increasingly bloody and is accordingly causing increasing anxiety, particularly in the countries of the Near East. And although Ovanesyan obviously did not try to prompt the Arab countries into taking part in a settlement of the crisis at a level of participation comparable to that of Turkey or Iran, the countries which are the immediate neighbors of the former Soviet Transcaucasus, he was nonetheless clearly striving to win sympathy toward Armenia in the Arab world. He was relying first on longstanding historical links between Armenia and the Arab countries in the region, and then on the fact that a large number of Armenians live in these countries and play a prominent role in trade and industry. And second, he was relying on the fact that during the course of the growing struggle for markets and influence in the Transcaucasian and Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union, the leading positions are currently occupied by Iran and Turkey, which, of course, cannot fail to arouse jealousy in the Arab world.

In Cairo, Ovanesyan met his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, and was received by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. After his meeting with Mubarak, in answer to my question about what he thought of holding a regional conference to resolve the Karabakh conflict, Ovanesyan said that the states in the region can play an important role in this. However, at the same time, he called into question the position of Turkey, whose leadership, he said, is threatening to interfere in Karabakh. This in turn could easily lead to the conflict spreading, and other countries could find themselves being drawn in, both countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and other countries situated beyond its borders. We stand for a peaceful solution, for international mediation, for dialogue, the Armenian foreign minister said. We hope that the CIS will play an active role in settling the conflict.

And what is Egypt's stance toward the problem of settling the situation? Naturally, I put the question to the Egyptian foreign minister. However, he was extremely laconic. We are hoping for a peaceful solution, he said, in accordance with international laws.

Federation Offers Support to Ter-Petrosyan

NC0903211492 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Hrayr Marukhyan, representative of the Bureau of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF]. The nearly one-hour conversation passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and it a number of vital issues were broached concerning Nagorno-Karabakh, the implementation of pan-Armenian measures to overcome the difficulties faced by Armenia, and a number of national and political matters of mutual interest.

The ARF fully assured the Republic's president that it is ready to exert efforts to overcome the difficulties facing the Armenian people and country. In this connection, the ARF's Central Committee in Armenia will present its specific proposals to the Republic's president in the coming days.

Order Allows Foreign Construction Capital

OW1103010492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2015 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan has signed an order to create enterprises with national and foreign participation to develop unfinished and abandoned construction sites in the republic. The order exempts capital invested in the enterprises from customs duties, import taxes, and the value added tax. After paying taxes investors are allowed to make profits in hard currency.

For the first two years after their creation these enterprises will be exempt from taxes on profits. For the following two years foreign participants in enterprises conducting business in the earthquake zone will pay a 50% tax on profits.

Azerbaijan

Mamedov, Ter-Petrosyan Agree to Cease-Fire

NC1203204392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Official sources have informed an AZERINFORM correspondent that Yakub Mamedov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, held a telephone conversation with Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan and Mkrtchyan, head of the Armenian community in the mountainous region in Karabakh, on the night of 11 March. The sides agreed to implement a temporary cease-fire between the clashing sides.

Plans were also made to exchange the remains of the victims within a period of two days and hold talks on the fate of the hostages. The Armenian side, however, launched an intensive artillery and rocket attack on Agdam and several other Azerbaijani residential areas early on 12 March. A large number of houses were destroyed and several people were killed. The Azerbaijan [word indistinct] administrations believe that the Armenian side is fully to blame for the disruption of the temporary cease-fire agreement, which would have created an opportunity for the holding of peace talks in the region.

Armenia Accused of Violation

OW1203191392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The news agency "Azerinform" reports that Azeri officials accused Armenia of violating the cease fire in Thursday's [12 March] attack on Agdam. The agency said that the agreement to a cease fire was reached by the head of the Azeri parliament Yakub Mamedov, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, and leader of the Armenian community of the Nagorno region of Karabakh Mkrtchyan. They agreed in the next two days to return the bodies of victims and begins talks to decide the fate of prisoners.

Reportage on Major Armenian Offensive in Agdam

Rocket Attack Launched

NC1203212992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] The armed Armenians launched a rocket attack on Agdam city from the direction of the Khanabad and Nakhichevanik towns in Khodzhaly Rayon at 1000 on 12 March. Eyvazov, head of the Agdam City Central Hospital, has disclosed that five people were killed and 27 others wounded. More than 20 houses were destroyed in the attack.

A clash took place in the [name indistinct] district on the outskirts of Agdam while this report was being conveyed to the editorial office at about noon. Initial reports said that the armed Armenians have taken several people hostage.

The armed Armenians, using armored vehicles, attacked Mamedli town in Agdara Rayon early on 12 March. Arif Zeynalov, head of the Mamedli executive authority who has arrived in Agdam, has disclosed that the armed Armenians besieged the town and then entered it. In doing so, they blocked off the road to Agdam. Zeynalov said: Violent clashes are taking place in the town at present. I have come here to get help. We have to find a way to evacuate the women and children from the town.

Kyshlak and Suleymanly towns in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon were fired on from the direction of the [name indistinct] town in Khodzhavend Rayon at 1700 on 11 March. Mekhtiyev [words indistinct] was wounded. Surkhavend town in Agdara Rayon was fired on with machine guns and automatic weapons at 2120.

The situation in the mountainous region in Karabakh and around Agdam continues to be tense.

The Azerbaijan Popular Front Information Center has disclosed that the Kheyrimli, Ashagy Eskipara, and Kashkavakly towns in the Kazakhskiy Rayon, the Alibeyli and Khasanly towns in the Tauzskiy Rayon, and the Kazanchi and Akkend towns in the Zangelanskiy Rayon have been coming under fire since yesterday and have been damaged. The armed Armenian units have become more active following the withdrawal of the CIS Armed Forces from our Republic's border rayons. The armed Armenian units also have fired on Dzhemilly, Karadagly, [word indistinct], and Arysh towns in Fizulinskiy Rayon.

Women, Children, Elderly Evacuated

NC1203185892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Our editorial office has received stirring reports all day from Agdam, various parts of the mountainous region in Karabakh, and the rayons that border Armenia. The Armenians launched attacks on Agdam city. Several towns in Agdamskiy Rayon have been besieged. There is a great need for aid. According to a report by the television and radio broadcasting company, the aid being provided is not sufficient. Women, children, and elderly have been evacuated from the city because of the incidents.

Stepanakert Denies Attack

OW1203191692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Council's press center denied March 12 reports spread by the Azeri side about alleged attacks by Armenian forces on the Agdam region of Azerbaijan.

The press center's statement says that in the morning of March 12 Armenian self-defense forces launched just a counter-attack to suppress Azeri positions near Agdam and threw tank units from the suburbs of Askeran back to the border with the Agdam region.

Noting that the Nagorno-Karabakh parliament has repeatedly expressed readiness to start peaceful negotiations with Azerbaijan, the press center accused Baku of violating the cease-fire agreement.

Meanwhile, the news agency "Azerinform" reported Thursday [12 March] that "Azeri official circles had brought similar accusations against Armenia".

Fighting Detailed

LD1303103292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Information on military actions continues to come in from Nagorno-Karabakh. An Information Center staff member at the State Directorate for Special Programs of the Republic of Armenia comments on the events in that area for Russia's Radio:

[Begin recording of unidentified staff member] Despite statements by the Azerbaijani side that Armenian self-defense detachments in Nagorno-Karabakh are undertaking daily offensive operations, what is actually happening is quite different. Daily shelling of Stepanakert and adjacent Armenian villages with Grad installations continues from Shusha, which has been turned into a base of the national army of Azerbaijan. For example, on 11 March two complete volleys of 80 high-explosive fragmentation shells each were released on Stepankert. More than 10 civilians were wounded, seven very gravely; their lives are in danger. In addition, the rayon center of Askeran village was subjected to concentrated shelling from the "Grad" installation, as well from the Agdam side. More than 200 rocket projectiles were fired at the small populated place. There is extensive destruction and numerous casualties.

The suppression of Azerbaijani firing points by forced measures began on the morning of March 12. A big operation by the national army of Azerbaijan was disrupted in order to seize the rayon center itself and the adjacent Armenian villages.

According to data at 1500 today [12 March] military actions have ceased. However, shelling of Askeran by a Grad installation in Agdam has resumed. According to the last report at 1600, the Azerbaijani side treacherously violated the mutual agreement on ceasing military operations between Agdam and Askeran Rayons.

Stepankert was shelled again by Grad installations. During the next two hours the town was shelled with two complete volleys. That is 160 shells. The town also is being shelled intensively by artillery. There is fresh destruction, new fires. A store—already in short supply in this blockaded city—is on fire. Counting the wounded and dead will have to wait until the shelling stops. All local observers, including the official bodies of power and the bodies of law and order, consider the last bombardment as the most intensive and destructive since the start of 1992. [end recording]

Now listen to what Azer Khalilov, our Baku correspondent, has to say about the events in Nagorno-Karabakh:

[Begin Khalilov recording] Since midday on 12 March, concentrated artillery bombardment of Agdam from the Grad installation has been continuing; the Krystal, Alazan, and Nossi are being used. Three Grad installations located in the Armenian village of Khanabad were handed over to the Armenian side by the 366th regiment of CIS troops. Since the start of the shelling, eight civilians have died in Agdam. According to current reports, there are many dead and wounded, and great destruction in the town.

The Agdam Rayon Department of Internal Affairs, as well as the republic's Ministry of Defense, report that large Armenian forces from Khramort village in Askeran Rayon attacked and seized the Azerbaijan village of Khderli in Agdam Rayon. The residents of the village were exterminated, says the Defense Ministry report. At 1600, an Armenian Army subdivision, supported by a large formation of armored equipment, appeared on the outskirts of Agdam. At 1700 Baku time fighting was in progress on the former reaches of the town around the town cemetery. At the same time, it is reported that in Khankendy, former Stepanakert, heavy military helicopters from Armenia are landing. Their holds contain live forces and military equipment. YAK-40 aircraft also are landing in Khankendy. According to information from the Ministry of National Security of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Armenian side has set itself the goal of purging Karabakh of Azerbaijanis by 12 March, that is of purging the towns of Shusha and Agdam of Azerbaijanis.

At 1900 on 12 March the republic's leadership adopted an appeal to the heads of state of the entire world, to the presidents of Turkey, Iran and Russia. The leadership of Azerbaijan called on them to stop the aggression of the Armenian terrorist troops against sovereign Azerbaijan. [end recording]

Gasanov Contacts Iran, Turkey, Kazakhstan

NC1203193092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov has contacted President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran, President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan in connection with the expansion of the Armenian bandits' attacks on Azerbaijan, the [words indistinct] and the use of modern arms, which has resulted in the death of several people and caused damage in Agdam and other Azerbaijani residential areas in the border rayons. Gasanov asked them to inform all the Islamic countries and the United Nations about the incidents and urged them to take the

necessary measures. Gasanov also asked them to hold categorical talks with Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Ter-Petrosyan and demand a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, Turkish ambassador in Baku Altan Karamanoglu has disclosed that the Turkish Council of Ministers is debating the Karabakh problem at present.

Lebanese 'Mercenaries' Sent to Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1203155092 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1504 GMT 11 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Baku—According to the data of Azerbaijan's Security Ministry, on March 10, about 100 mercenaries of the armed forces of Armenia were sent to Nagorno-Karabakh. These mercenaries are citizens of Lebanon. According to the data of this ministry, a part of them were also sent from Armenia to Geranboy district. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has announced that a letter was sent to the UN secretary general with a request of helping to resist aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and to stop sending of the Armenian mercenaries to the highlands of Karabakh. The letter also calls the UN secretary general's attention to the problem of involvement of citizens of Lebanon, Syria and France in the conflict here.

International Observers in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1203132992 Moscow TASS in English 1346 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS—A group of observers from the organisations "International Christian Solidarity" and "The Sakharov" congress has arrived in Nagorno-Karabakh on Thursday [11 Thursday].

The delegation headed by Caroline Cox, vice speaker of the British House of Lords, brought medicines and baby food to the republic.

The observers visited a city hospital in Stepanakert, the capital of the disputed enclave, and plan to visit Askeran and Khodzhaly.

Meanwhile, fighting continues in Nagorno-Karabakh. The district centre Martuni and the village of Dudukchi in the Gadrutsky district were shelled last night from grad missile launchers, the republican interior department said.

Armenian guerrillas are fighting against Azerbaijani forces that seized and burned down the Armenian village of Kazanchi and the Azerbaijani village of Srkhavend in the Mardakert district.

Armenian guerrillas seized an Azerbaijani tank and ammunition last night. There were no reports about the tank crew.

However, the Armenian side warned that servicemen of the Commonwealth Armed Forces fighting against Armenians will "be killed on the spot regardless of their nationality.

Democratic Party Leader on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1303155192 Moscow TASS in English 1440 GMT 13 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Krashulin and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Baku March 13 TASS—"The peaceful Karabakh settlement is possible only on the basis of priority of human rights over any other interests," member of the Azeri Social-Democratic Party's central committee's bureau Zardusht Ali-Zade [name as received] told ITAR-TASS today.

Ali-Zade ran for Azeri president and was the only rival of recently resigned Ayaz Mutalibov.

The Azeri Social-Democratic Party calls for giving the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabakh stable state and, if necessary, international guarantees of free residence and development on Azeri territory, said Ali-Zade. This plan envisages the withdrawal of Armenian armed formations and demilitarization of the area.

"We are for participation in the CIS and sincerely hope the Commonwealth will be the international formation to enable its member-states to establish genuinely equal humanitarian relations," said Ali-Zade.

In his opinion, Azerbaijan, to have equal rights with Russia and other CIS member-states, as well as Iran and Turkey, will be able to conduct more independent and balanced policy.

Military Buildup Against Lachinskiy Rayon

NC1203154992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1400 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] We have established contact with Lachinskiy Rayon. Tofik Abdulayev, deputy chief of the Lachinskiy Rayon Executive Authority, has disclosed that 10 cargo planes have landed in Karabakh from Armenia during the past few days. Abdulayev also said that Grad-type [Grad tipli] arms have been deployed along the 120-km border between Lachinskiy Rayon and Armenia. The movement of military vehicles, including T-72 tanks, [word indistinct], and (?personnel carriers) is being observed in the region. The (Kazanlik) and Zaglik towns were fired on with Alazan rockets and missile launchers on 11 March.

Popular Front Head on 'Civilized Divorce' From CIS

LD1203144292 Moscow TASS in English 1418 GMT 12 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Krasulin and Sergey Postanogov—AZERINFORM correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev]

[Text] Baku March 12 TASS—Not all political means have been used to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, Arif Gadzhiyev, leader of the Azerbaijani People's Front, said at a news conference in Baku today.

He said that for Azerbaijani-Armenian talks to begin, the Armenian side should cancel a resolution by the Armenian parliament on the integration of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and free Azerbaijani areas from Armenian guerrillas.

"Now that the Armenian Armed Forces feel their superiority and military and political support from Russia and some Western states, it would not be easy to solve the problem. The Azerbaijani side will not be interested in such talks until it has its own armed forces to protect its borders from aggression and ensure Azerbaijani people's security," Gadzhiyev said.

He warned, however, that Azerbaijan may boost contacts with the Armenian opposition if the Armenian leadership does not begin a peace dialogue.

Gadzhiyev said the People's Front does not rule out the possibility of its participation in the coalition government but stressed that this will require parliamentary elections and an abolition of presidency in the republic.

Speaking on the upcoming summit meeting of the leaders of the Commonwealth states in Kiev on March 20, Isa Gambarov, one of the front leaders, said the front will not participate in the Commonwealth of Independent States, which it views as an attempt to restore the empire.

He said this was one of the major contradictions between the front and Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov, which forced him to resign. The front will try to either prevent Azerbaijan from participating in the summit meeting or make its leaders send an observer to Kiev to ensure "a normal civilised divorce of Azerbaijan from the former empire".

The news conference was interrupted by a report about missile attack against the city of Agdam by Armenian guerrillas early on Thursday. [12 March]

Party Calls for Parliamentary Elections

NC1203131892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Statement issued by the Free Democratic Party of Azerbaijan in Baku; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Khodzhaly tragedy clearly indicates that the old administrative system is incapable of maintaining its functions and must be changed as quickly as possible. The government crisis has been resolved peacefully at the present time. The peaceful removal of Ayaz Mutalibov from the political scene indicates that the democratic movement in Azerbaijan has become stronger and has taken a step toward improvement.

It is premature, however, to see this development as the victory of democracy in Azerbaijan. What it is, however, is the beginning of a long process in the move toward establishing a free and democratic community. It is impossible to be satisfied with the result that has been achieved. The removal of the old administrative system is an essential task. If this is not done, then solving the Karabakh problem and placing Azerbaijan among the democratic countries in the world will be impossible. The Free Democratic Party of Azerbaijan [Azerbaijan Mustakil Demokrat Partiyasi] is convinced that dissolving the Supreme Soviet and transferring power to the national council is essential.

The Azerbaijan National Council must move to hold democratic elections to establish the new parliament on the basis of the multiparty system. The will of all the various categories of the Azerbaijani people must be represented in it. Executive authority must be reestablished. The government must be established from hard-working officials who have won the people's confidence.

Georgia

Parliament Session Called 'Propagandistic Show'

OW1303114392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tengiz Sigua has told IF [INTERFAX] that yesterday's session of the old body of the Georgian parliament in the Chechen capital Groznyy was "a propagandistic show." The Georgian Supreme Soviet had been dissolved by the Military Council in January, when the deposed President Zviad Gamsakhurdia fled the opposition-besieged government building in Tbilisi.

T. Sigua believes that "under the circumstances Z. Gamsakhurdia is a political corpse." According to him, Eduard Shevardnadze's return-home has notably strengthened Georgian society's unity. A mere three days after his arrival in Tbilisi Shevardnadze was elected head of the State Council which will be in office until a new body of parliament is elected in June. The Council also involves Tengiz Kitovani and Dzhaba Ioseliani.

Instability 'Being Inspired' by Gamsakhurdia

LD1203131892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Rallies in Abkhazia by Georgians in support of Gamsakhurdia are continuing in Sukhumi and Gagri. In political circles the opinion is being expressed that the terrorist acts and instability in Zugdidi and its environs are being inspired by Zviad Gamsakhurdia himself. Those speaking at the rallies state that only after Shevardnadze has shed all Georgian blood, will he dare to be president there. At the rallies, portraits and dolls depicting Eduard Shevardnadze are being set on fire. At the same time, an opposing point of view is being expressed as well. Some people believe that the destabilization of the situation in western Georgia is at the hands of Shevardnadze himself to justify to the whole world possible repressive measures regarding Gamsakhurdia's supporters. For the third day now Tbilisi television is not being received in Abkhazia. Dzhaba Ioseliani stated at a news conference that he has at his disposal unconfirmed information about the intention of pro-Gamsakhurdia Georgian deputies to hold a Georgian Supreme Soviet session in Groznyy.

Gamsakhurdia Backers Agree To Release Hostages

LD1303062892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The situation in western Georgia is controlled mainly by the national guard, said Dhzaba Ioseliani, deputy head of the Georgian State Council, at a news conference in Tbilisi. However, as the YUG agency reported, the supporters of ex-President Gamsakhurdia are speaking in public in a number of the region's cities that are his electoral base. According to a report by the SNARK agency, they have blockaded the town of Zugdidi. As a result of talks, the Gamsakhurdia supporters have agreed to give up four of the 17 hostages they seized.

Civilian Helicopter Shot Down Near Zugdidi

OW1203214592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A civilian helicopter transporting 18 Georgian national guardsmen was shot down March 12 in the vicinity of the western Georgian city of Zugdidi. The agency "Snark" reports that the helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing. Initial reports say there were no victims. The helicopter is believed to have been shot down by supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

"Snark" said the city of Zugdidi was blockaded by the Zviadists. The Georgian Ministry of Interior Affairs said the Zviadists are planning terrorist acts against members of the Government Council of Georgia headed by Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Georgian Ministry of National Security told "Snark" that 1.5 thousand [number as received] soldiers including Chechens are in Zugdidi.

Situation in South Ossetia Said Stabilizing

LD1103135792 Moscow TASS in English 1244 GMT 11 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 11 TASS—The situation is beginning to stabilise in South Ossetia, Torez Kulumbekov, South Ossetian parliamentary speaker, told ITAR-TASS.

Kulumbekov said progress has been made possibly due to concrete measures taken by North and South Ossetians and the Georgian provisional government, as well as constructive proposals recently announced by Eduard Shevardnadze in Tbilisi.

He expressed hope that Shevardnadze will help ease tension between South Ossetia and Georgia.

Georgian militants attacked the city of Tskhinvali, administrative centre of South Ossetia, last night, using unguided missiles, large-caliber machine guns and grenade launchers and provoking retaliatory fire from South Ossetian forces.

No casualties were reported.

Sigua Signs Communications Accord With Iran

LD1203040192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Tengiz Sigua, head of the Georgian provisional government, today received an Iranian government delegation headed by Sa'id Nezhadi, deputy minister of roads and transportation. As the FAKT News Agency reports, an understanding in principle on economic cooperation between the two states was reached during the meeting. The same day an agreement was signed on the creation in Georgia of transit and transport communications to be used by the Iranian side. In exchange, Georgia expects to receive from Iran natural gas and other types of fuel.

Estonia

Government Decisions on Appointments, Defense

LD1003234892

[Editorial Report] Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1800 GMT on 9 March carries a four-minute report on government proceedings and decisions announced on 9 March. The report notes that the government announced that Riivo Sinijarv was appointed first deputy minister of Industry and Energy and that Enn Tasso was released from his post as director general of the Forestry Department and replaced by Andres Talijarv.

The report also notes that the government has temporarily banned the export of nonferrous metals, ferrous metals, and oil products. Prime Minister Tiit Vahi is quoted on the issue of stolen metals, saying:

"There has been a lengthy debate on this subject. It has been explained to me that this unhealthy business is not taking place in Estonia but that Estonia is only a middleman. If nonferrous metals are being stolen in large quantities in Russia and Estonia is acting as the middleman, then Estonia must view it exactly as if the stealing had been taking place here."

The report goes on to point out that all deals concerning forestry areas have been halted and that future forestry deals will be based on public bids.

The government, the radio reports, has adopted a resolution on the formation of the Kalev and Kuperjanov Infantry Battalions, the names coming from fictitious and real life national heroes, respectively. Ants Laaneots, acting chief of the General Staff, is quoted as follows:

"This is the beginning of the formation of defense forces. These two units are meant to be battle units in permanent combat readiness. We would like to locate one of them in southern Estonia and the other in northern Estonia, an area we consider strategically significant and the most dangerous for the Republic. We will attempt to staff both units as much as possible via volunteers. As our state is poor, we cannot recruit paid soldiers; we can only recruit volunteers who are indeed willing to, let us say, give up a year or a year and a half for their homeland under the conditions of conscription."

Functions of Border Troops Reviewed, Discussed

LD0903215892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent A. Denisov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Denisov] Of all the arms of the service of the former Union on the territory of the independent Baltic states, the toughest situation today lies with the border troops. And here in Estonia, they have found themselves belonging literally to noone. They have not been taken under anyone's jurisdiction, they are occupation forces as far as the local authorities are concerned, and they are apparently guarding not the Soviet border, but the Estonian one.

Incidentally, the local customs people are constantly alongside them now. After all, the laws on what can be imported and exported are also their own, Estonian. However, the border troops are not able to leave the border and get away from here. First, there is nowhere to go, and, second, this could harm the national interests of Russia, whose border is not yet being formally guarded.

[Begin Ye. P. Kochegarov recording, deputy commander Baltic Military District troops] The fact is that at the moment there is no border between Russia and Estonia, and the function of safeguarding the security of the Russian state now lies with the border troops located in the Baltic region, including Estonia. So, as long as there is a border, there will be passport points; in other words, all the things that make up a state border. Then we can consider that the mission here is practically complete. [end recording]

[Denisov] But Russia needs to conclude a treaty on the borders with Estonia immediately, General Kochegarov believes. For, as can be seen on this map, which he showed us at the headquarters, Estonia is already openly claiming primordial Russian lands, which before the revolution were part of the Petrograd and Pskov provinces. They were, in fact, presented to them by Lenin according to the Treaty of Tartu. Incidentally, according to the general, the Estonians have already laid a number of trenches on the border with Pskov oblast and created an as-yet-small fortified area, but with barbed wire entanglements and permanent fire points.

Most Humanitarian Aid Reportedly 'Useless'

LD0903190292 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1900 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Summary] Mati Toomessoo, deputy director of the state Medis enterprise reported that of all humanitarian aid received in Estonia 80 percent has been useless, and that includes the 50 tonnes of medical aid received at the time of Vice President Dan Quayle's recent visit. The Estonian side had drawn up a list of required articles but it has been ignored. He noted that Canadian aid, however, has been useful.

Latvia

Withdrawal of Russian Troops To Begin 19 Mar

OW1103135992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1305 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Soviet military unit No. 68461 stationed in the Latvian village of Salatsgriva will be the first to withdraw

from Latvia March 19, 1992, as Commander of the Northwestern group of forces Colonel-General Valery Mironov notified Chairman of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs in a letter March 10. General Mironov pointed out that the unit will be pulled out in compliance with an agreement between the Latvian and Russian governments, under which the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Latvia should start in March of 1992.

Mironov invited Gorbunovs to attend the send-off ceremony March 19.

A Latvian inspection commission on taking control of military facilities and territory is working today in the Salatsgriva military station.

Foreign Sub Crew Training at Bolderaja Viewed

LD1003202192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Two Iranian naval submarine crews, about 100 people, have been in training for more than a year at the Russian-run Bolderaja Naval Training Center in Riga. This was told to a BNS [Baltic News Service] correspondent by a Latvian Defense Ministry official who wished to remain anonymous. The training center at Bolderaja naval port is said to be the only one on the territory of the former USSR to be specially created to train marine specialists from foreign navies who were receiving former USSR naval technology. Algerian, Indian, Iraqi, and other naval staff have stayed at the Bolderaja training center. A contract is said to have been signed with the Iranian naval staff for training before the restoration of Latvia's state independence. The Latvian Government has thus far not received any allocations for the naval training; on the other hand, Latvia has not yet established diplomatic relations with Iran. It is anticipated that in March one of the Iranian submarine crews, provided with a diesel-powered submarine, will leave Latvia for Iran.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Use of Foreign Aid

LD1103224592 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 2030 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] As Deputy Foreign Minister Maris Gailis reports, grain and energy resources given as aid to Latvia from abroad are sold at market prices and the money earned is deposited in a special fund created by the Latvian Foreign Ministry. The use of these funds is monitored by the foreign countries themselves, who requested the establishment of the account because they were anxious about the squandering of the money. The United States has allotted Latvia 100,000 tonnes of grain in humanitarian aid. Sixty percent of the money acquired from the sale of the grain is to be used to develop rural infrastructure and to promote privatization, and 30 percent for social protection measures. Grain worth 15 million ECUs from the European Community has also been sold at market prices.

In the event of a budget crisis, we will allow these funds to be used to pay basic pensions and for special European Community permits.

Further on Aid

LD0903232892 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 2030 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has announced that the United States is allocating to each Baltic republic additional food aid worth $5 million. The aid to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia is included in the Food for Peace program, which provides that the United States allocate loans to recipient countries so that they can buy U.S.-made food products.

At the beginning of this year, the United States sent each Baltic republic 100,000 tonnes of grain, but that aid was included in another program.

Also, Teodors Enins, minister of welfare of the Republic of Latvia, has returned from a visit to the United States of America, and he regards the results of it as unsatisfactory. In the United States of America, he was seeking medical supplies as aid for Latvia, to be supplied in accordance with the promise of U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle. But the U.S. Government and pharmaceutical firms are not interested in helping Latvia at the moment to overcome its critical shortage of medicines, because Latvia is alleged not to have the money to pay for it, and there is no clarity either about legislation on privatization.

The World Bank is refraining from credits for purchasing medicines, because at present Latvia has not joined that association. The most pertinent aid at this time to Latvia can be expected from citizens in exile, who have set up a crisis committee and are involved in collecting medicine from firms and private individuals. The World Federation of Free Latvians has already donated half a million U.S. dollars, the Latvian National Association in Canada 250,000 Canadian dollars. Real aid is being provided by the Canadian Red Cross too, from which on 3 March Latvia received medicine worth half a million Canadian dollars.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on 6-Day Unofficial Visit to Tokyo

PM1103170592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Sergey Agafonov report under the "IZVESTIYA Correspondents on World Events" rubric: "Gorbachev Will Be Coming after Landsbergis"]

[Text] Tokyo—Vytautas Landsbergis, parliamentary leader of independent Lithuania, has been on a six-day unofficial visit to Japan.

This was his first visit to Tokyo, although the route to Japan from the Baltic republic is now well-established—the Lithuanian prime minister has twice been here, also in an unofficial capacity, since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries last October.

Landsbergis had a pretty interesting itinerary in Tokyo—a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa, an audience with the emperor, a conversation with Foreign Minister Watanabe, and a discussion with leaders of the business world. None of these official events is connected with the formal reason for Landsbergis' appearance in Japan, since, according to the official version, the visitor came to Japan to take part in the opening ceremony of a Lithuanian exhibition in Tokyo.

Judging by press reports, during his meeting with the Japanese premier Landsbergis asked the Japanese for assistance in the form of money, technology, and know-how and conveyed to him the plans for the future of independent Lithuania and its anxieties. Landsbergis informed the Japanese that Lithuania is seeking to join the European Community, but this process, according to him, will take quite a while; however, the pressing tasks are to conclude an economic cooperation agreement with the EC and make the international market accessible to Lithuanian mineral fertilizers, furniture, and light industry products.

The Japanese premier listened to his guest attentively, but did not respond to the requests for investment or assistance; however, he did, on the other hand, promise shortly to appoint an ambassador from a neighboring country to serve also as ambassador to Lithuania, and this perhaps can be regarded as the major achievement of the trip.

The Lithuanian visit has come to a successful end, but meanwhile several other pieces of news connected with the former Union are being discussed in Tokyo. The first is extraordinary, and it has caused quite a lot of embarrassment: Tetsuo Sato, president of the Soviet-Japanese Trade Association, has simultaneously become honorary and plenipotentiary consul of the Yakut Republic of Sakha in Japan. In conformity with a document sent to the "honorary and plenipotentiary" consul by the Yakut president, the consul is vested with the right to conduct talks, discharge broad representative functions, and, among other things, issue visas for entry to the Yakut Republic of Sakha. This latter function, when the tourist companies and the Foreign Ministry here learned about it, threw Japanese officials into mild confusion. The consul himself, incidentally, also caught it: Mr Sato announced his appointment to a session of the association; however, the businessman's new capacity did not enrapture his colleagues, but, on the contrary, produced a host of misgivings, the main one residing in the fact that the title of "honorary consul" requires the sanction of the Japanese Foreign Ministry. And that the Yakut consul does not possess.

Another piece of news ties in with the trip by former USSR President Gorbachev. As is well known, he intends to visit Japan during the middle part of April. So the advance party to prepare the trip, which includes Revenko, a representative of the former president, plus a member of his personal bodyguard, arrived in Tokyo from Moscow today. Mikhail Sergeyevich will, by all accounts, have many meetings in Japan—meetings with the emperor, prime minister, foreign minister, and leaders of the ruling party are already known about.

Parliamentary Official Denies Coup Prediciton

LD1303113292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Arturas Skucas, head of the Parliamentary Protection Department, has stated he never said that a coup would be staged in Lithuania on 11 March. The deputies listened today to the information by Skucas on a motion put by the Liberal faction. The motion was presented following a televised interview by Skucas last Sunday [8 March] in which he said he had information that on 11 March representatives of certain forces were preparing to submit a proposal of no confidence in the present parliamentary leaders.

The head of the Protection Deaprtment said today he did not and does not have at present any proof of a coup attempt planned for 11 March, and if he had any he would first inform the Lithuanian leadership and not make them public.

Report of 'No Confidence' Statement Denied

LD0903144192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Excerpts] During an interview on Lithuanian Television on 8 March, the parliament security section chief, Arturas Skucas, claimed that he has information that a number of Lithuanian Parliament deputies are preparing to express their lack of confidence in the current parliament leadership on 11 March. Meanwhile, another, unnamed by Skucas, but most probably non- parliamentary groups, wish to (?gain entry) on television and make a statement.

Skucas suggested that [word indistinct] the television not be disconnected from morning until night, at the same time noting that following his warning about the threats the situation may also change.

The parliamentary press representative, Audrius Azubalis, stated this morning that he has no information which could support the statement by Skucas. However, he noted that the parliament protection section is a special service and that it perhaps has more information.

A meeting of the Supreme Council Presidium members today discussed the Skucas statement in addition to other questions. A video recording of the television broadcast in which the Parliament Protection Section Chief had participated was reviewed. [passage omitted].

Aloyzas Sakalas, chairman of the Center Faction, described the Skucas statement as "a consequence of a sick imagination." Deputy Sakalas told a Baltic News Service correspondent that the Central Faction is not preparing any declarations and he is unaware of any type of declaration being prepared by other factions.

Ambassador to U.S. Presents Credentials To Bush

OW1203134692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1312 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 11 Lithuanian Plenipotentiary Ambassador to the U.S.A. Stasys Lozoraitis presented his credentials to U.S. President George Bush.

During a short conversation after the official ceremony Lozoraitis informed the U.S. President about economic difficulties in the republic, in particular, raw materials supplies from Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union.

Bush promised to take measures to promote assistance to Lithuania.

The Lithuanian ambassador Stasis Lozoraitis has distinguished himself by making a statement for the press in support of incorporation of Russia's Kaliningrad region into Lithuania.

Premier Wants To Stabilize Ties With Russia

OW1103225192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1838 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking about the Lithuanian-Russian economic treaty on Lithuanian TV, Lithuanian Premier Gediminas Vagnorius expressed hope that Russia would not create obstacles to its implementation.

On March 6 the list of mutual shipments for 1992 as a necessary supplement to the treaty was endorsed in Moscow.

Vagnorius also said that in the second half of March economic ties between some Lithuanian and Russian enterprises should be restored. The Premier stressed that he had urged Russian leaders to abolish customs duties on exported and imported goods. He said they had agreed that in a month or two it would not be advantageous for Russia to impose customs duty on imported goods.

Vagnorius denied accusations by his opponents that economic reform in Lithuania is in a stalemate and suggested that economic matters should not be mixed with political ones. He pointed out that economic reform is being carried out "satisfactorily and privatization passes as well as it is possible in the present conditions". In the opinion of the Lithuanian Premier, privatization in the country is going on slowly compared to other states, but, in essence, that corresponds with "the present realities". In his view, privatization cannot be linked to the introduction of the national currency, since the state has committed itself to creating conditions for people to use their ruble savings.

Prospects for Relations Assessed

LD1103171992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1300 GMT 8 Mar 92

["Commentary of the Week" by Vilnius "political expert" Dmitriy Mikhaylov]

[Text] So, the long-awaited report has come that a treaty has been signed between the Governments of Lithuania and Russia on economic ties for the near future. This fact in itself inspires both optimism and compels certain conclusions to be drawn on why it is that Lithuania is an obvious priority in Russian politics. I do not think that the half Lithuanian origins of the grey cardinal in Yeltsin's team could have played a major role here. I think that there are deeper reasons.

The first such reason that hits one between the eyes is Lithuania's economic weight in the Baltic area, where it is the largest, mightiest, and most impressive republic, the position of which may in turn influence the position in Russia in some way and deepen (?its socio-economic) difficulties.

The second point is the substantial political capital which has been accumulated by Lithuania in recent years. It was indeed Lithuania which was constantly in the vanguard of the political processes. It was indeed the political efforts and the political will of Lithuania in its aspiration for independence which to all intents and purposes finally put the Yeltsin team in power. Since the political struggle which has been waged in recent years meant that there was a need for Gorbachev to keep former states within their former borders at any price, as soon as it became glaringly obvious that these efforts had been unsuccessful he was replaced by Yeltsin, who successfully played two cards against his rival of many years standing. First, the fact that he was a nonparty member (?by choice), and second the Russian card instead of the worn-out Soviet one which everyone was fed up with, and which had produced virtually no benefits.

Also on this level, of course, Lithuania and the other Baltic republics which strove for independence, helped Yeltsin to take power from Gorbachev, thus from this point of view Lithuania is still gaining certain benefits.

The next problem which makes relations between Lithuania and Russia special is that of eastern Prussia, or Kaliningrad Oblast as it is still called. This enclave is divided from Russia by Lithuania, and Russia has an undoubted economic and strategic interest in the free movement of transport and freight, raw materials, and finally energy across Lithuanian territory. Another

problem which I think is specific to Lithuania is what I would call the Polish-Belarussian one. This Polish-Belarussian problem is the basic ethnic problem in Lithuania. On the one hand it aggravates the situation here, and on the other it renders the Russian problem a secondary one, I would say, by comparison with the same problems in Estonia and Latvia, where a considerable proportion of the population is Russian. Naturally, Russia needs to pay more attention to resolving these problems, to protecting the national minorities, namely the Russian national minorities in Estonia and Latvia. In Lithuania this problem exists only perhaps in Snieckus and Klaipeda to some extent but is not so acute.

These are all what I would describe as plus factors, making it possible to reckon on good long-term relations between Lithuania and Russia. On the other hand however, we must not close our eyes to a certain degree of instability in these relations. I think that it is by no mere obstacle that it is precisely conflict between Russia and Lithuania—military conflict moreover—which, in the Pentagon's opinion, is one of the planet's potential flashpoints in the near future, as well as being virtually the only place where there could be a clash between the interests of Russia and the United States, according to the forecasts of this redoubtable military department. Evidently this possibility cannot be ruled out, particularly since a certain section of Lithuanian politicians has claims, which are sometimes heard, to eastern Prussia or Lithuania Minor, while on the other hand, of course, there are let us say the same military and strategic interests of the Russian military-industrial complex which would not want Kaliningrad Oblast to be cut off from the main territory.

Another danger which is constantly discussed is the possibility of the Red-Browns coming to power in Russia, in other words a mixture of former communists and future fascists. Or of course, finally, simply patriots like Rutskoy, who at present clearly symbolize the only real opposition and one which is ready to seize power from the Yeltsin team. Of course these people would probably pursue a harsher policy toward Lithuania and indeed other republics than Yeltsin.

Delegation Holds Negotiations With Kaliningrad

LD0803050292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] A Lithuanian Government delegation headed by First Deputy Foreign Minister Valdemaras Katkus returned from Kaliningrad Oblast today. The delegation took part in negotiations concerning the state border of Kaliningrad Oblast and the Republic of Lithuania. This was the third meeting of the delegations. Katkus said the following about what was decided at the meeting: [Begin Katkus recording] An agreement was reached at the previous meeting in Vilnius concerning the work of the expert groups. Five drafts were presented for discussion at the latest meeting. Two were confirmed: one concerning the preparation of documents on the delimitation of the state borders by the work groups, and the other on the provisional agreements on the joint exploitation and the order of servicing of the trunk communications cable. Those are two specific matters allowing both sides to proceed based on an agreed method.

Three issues causing extensive discussions and remaining under discussion are the issues related to transport, power engineering, and the border.

We divided the issue of transport into three parts: road and railway transport, air transport, and sea and river transport. The issue of road and railway transport communications has been more or less agreed, but river communications, taxes, and sea communications need further discussion. This is also true for the border as this is not a simple issue. The latter discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

One of the more important matters is the issue was raised by the Lithuanian side at the previous meeting. This is that military maneuvers at the military training grounds in the Baltic Sea be stopped. Both sides agreed that the Baltic military fleet cannot carry out such operations without prior coordination with the government of the Republic of Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast. This is perhaps is not fully understood because when such exercises start—not to mention that these are carried out in the Lithuanian territorial waters—these impede the normal functioning of Klaipeda Port and cause difficulties concerning the safety of the incoming ships, both foreign and ours, when these ships have to sail past the military training grounds where shooting is in progress and other things are also carried out. [sentence as heard]

These were the main problems at the latest meeting. The next meeting will take place on 8 and 9 April in Vilnius. During the interim the groups will be working and preparing other issues. Our group will be holding meetings with various public organizations to find out what other proposals, wishes, and problems need to be solved. [end recording]

Problem With Textbooks Published Abroad Aired

LD1003202992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Speaking at a briefing in the Supreme Council today, council press spokesman Audrius Azubalis discussed the concern voiced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, which was disseminated by TASS and the Polish press, about the ban by the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture and Education on using textbooks published abroad, in this case in Poland, in Lithuanian Polish schools.

Darius Kuolys, minister of culture and education, explained to Audrius Azubalis this morning that this was not a ban on textbooks published abroad; it merely

meant establishing a certain order. The decree on the use of textbooks published abroad in Lithuania was signed by Mr. Kuolys half a year ago, therefore, he was surprised that it is being discussed today.

Darius Kuolys even gave the following example: An appeal was made by the Vilnius rayon education department to the ministry expressing the wish to use three textbooks published in Poland for teaching children. Minister experts acquainted themselves with the contents of these books and gave permission for their use.

State Budget for 1992 Finally Approved

PM1203132392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 92 p 1

[Untitled report by unnamed PRAVDA correspondent under the "Snippets" rubric]

[Text] Vilnius—Following long debates, a law on the republic state budget for 1992 was ratified by the Lithuanian parliament. Despite all kinds of cuts—assistance to former political prisoners and convicts has been reduced to 15 million rubles [R]—the financing of political parties out of budget resources is coming to an end, and resources for allocations to state reserves have been reduced by 400 million rubles [R]. It did not prove possible to avoid a deficit—it totals around R1.5 billion.

Citizens, Emigrees Want Law Explained

LD1303113992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] The Citizens Charter of the Republic of Lithuania group held a conference in Vilnius today under the banner: "The Citizenship Law of the Republic of Lithuania and the emigrees".

Representatives of Lithuanian communities from Canada, Belgium, Hungary and other countries exchanged their views at the conference about the Citizenship Law, which has been met with criticism by the emigrees. The discussion was joined by deputies of the Supreme Council, lawyers, representatives of the Sajudis and other public organizations.

It was stated at the conference that it is essentially not a bad law, but that its official explanation is lacking. The participants in the conference noted that problems among the emigrees concern not the Citizenship Law itself, but a lack of information explaining the law.